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ROCK VALLEY

HISTORY

(Iowa)

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75 Years of Progress

Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 29 & 30

see first page



1879 - 1952

ROCK VALLEY

HISTORY

(Iowa)

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75 Years of Progress

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ONLY ONE IS THE WINNER

See first book

1936934

DEDICATION

To the early pioneers, settlers, and residents of Rock Valley and vicinity whom we know contributed so much to the founding and development of our town and to those whose valuable contributions to same are unknown to us, we respectfully dedicate this booklet. We as a committee realize that at best the history herewith submitted is incomplete but tells enough to make us all realize the debt of gratitude we owe to those who have gone before us and left as our heritage ROCK VALLEY, our home town, for which we are very thankful.

The History Committee.

Mrs. Eda McKellar

Mrs. Alberta Schmidt

Miss Joan Leistra

Mrs. Margie Bonthuis

Mrs. Stella Schlecty

Donald F. Klein, Co-chairman

F. T. McGill, Co-chairman

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SECTION I — General History

THE HISTORY OF ROCK VALLEY

By Dr. E. O. Plumble, M. D.

In order to write the history of Rock Valley, or indeed any portion of Sioux County, we must retrograde to the time when Sioux and several other counties in northwestern Iowa were the subjects of barter and sale, controlled by a speculative ring for revenue only. Just as Mose Lewis said in the Federal Court at Des Moines in the suit which liberated Sioux County from the payment of large sums in fraudulent bonds and warrents, the exact amount will probably never be known, emphasized by a profanely pious assertion that the population, when he came to the county, was "two men and a nigger." The tide of homestead immigration, beginning in 1868, and reaching its culmination in 1870, when the homestead lands were practically all taken, changed all this and the election of 1871 practically ended speculative ring rule in Sioux County.

It is a fact that the west and practically the northwest portion of the county received the first ripple of the wave of homestead immigration, partly because, being beyond the twenty mile limit of railroad lands, homesteads of 160 acres could be secured, and because of the fuel and building material along the Rock and Sioux Rivers, particularly the former. Pages, yes volumes, could be written detailing the experiences of most of the earlier pioneers, in the journey across the then uninhabited prairies of the northwest, in search of new homes. It is a noted fact that the cabins erected by the settlers of the late sixties confined almost exclusively to the northwestern portion of the county, were more substantial than those erected farther east and south one or two years later, being mostly of cottonwood logs; while the latter

used sod, lumber, anything that would constitute a shelter, sod being the favorite.

Rock Township, as originally organized, exceeded largely its present geographical proportions, and the writer trusts he will be pardoned if at any time he may encroach on the descriptive domain of some other narrator.

The first homestead or claim of any kind taken in northwestern Sioux was on the Iowa side of the Sioux River, opposite the town of Fairview, some time during the sixties by a man named Jack Smith, a county officer. It is probably he who erected the first cabin in the county outside of Calliope, the county seat. The building was still standing at a comparatively recent date.

The first homesteads in what is now Rock Township were taken in the spring or early summer of 1868 by John and Ira S. Wilson, father and son, on Sec. 30, about a mile or more southwest of Rock Valley. They returned to Sioux City and remained until the next spring, when they erected cabins upon their claims. These claims were later the Ernisse and Gilbert farms. Rev. John Runyun and his sons, William and John, took claims the same year on section 22, northwest of Rock Valley. William and John, Jr., wintered at Doon the winter of 1868 and '69, being joined by their father and family, and settling on their claims in 1869. William Runyun was a surveyor and located many of the subsequent settlers in northwestern Sioux.

William Brewington and his sons, Sidney and Ben, took claims in 1869 on section 18.

The year 1870 saw a large influx of settlers, not only in Rock Township, but also in all portions of the county, where available lands were located. During this year section 36 was occupied by John Tucker, John Langford, P. C. Sullivan and Ed Quinlan. James Griffin, Sr., also filed on

a claim in this section; but did not occupy it till 1872.

Wm. Stickney, Phenias H. Blood, John Taylor and his father, Nicholas Taylor, took claims on section 36. Chas. Klein took a claim on section 14. Among the other homesteaders in Rock may be mentioned Chas. Messner, John Sorg, Amos Oakland, E. A. Loffswold and Sam Markle.

A postoffice was established in 1872, on section 14, called Royal Ridge, with John D. Sorg as postmaster, succeeded later by Sam Markle. It was moved to the residence of J. L. Finch at Rock Mills, half a mile north of Rock Valley, in 1876, and the name changed to Rock Mills, with J. L. Finch as postmaster.

Sam Bellesfield was the pioneer postman of this section, carrying the mail to the intermediate points between LeMars, Ia., and Luverne, Minn.

During the fall or winter of 1874, J. L. Finch explored Rock River, from Doon to its mouth, for a mill site, selecting the one about half a mile north of Rock Valley, and the next year, 1875, in connection with Mr. Spencer of Fairview, S. D., erected a grist mill, which supplied the needs of the community till 1881, when it was destroyed by the disastrous flood of that year, being then owned by Messrs. Francher and Rowe.

Rock Township, like all of Sioux County, and indeed the whole northwest, suffered severely from loss of population during what is known as the "grasshopper period," from 1873 to 1877, the time that tried the souls of pioneers and caused some of them to abandon their homes for other locations.

The half has never been told, and at this time can be but feebly comprehended, of the privations of the pioneers during that period, or the credit due those, who braving its hardships, came victorious from the conflict.

The town of Rock Valley was platted in the summer of 1879, by

A. J. Warren and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, on land owned by the fo

The track, late in the preceeding autumn, had reached a point about two miles west of Pattersonville, now Hull, where it rested during the winter. The spot was an ideal location for a town, as the sequel has proved. Strange enough, the first building in the town was a saloon on the corner of Main and 13th St., erected by Matt Blau. It was followed by a small store building, located in the same block, erected and conducted by Edwin Rhodes.

The first dwelling house was erected the same summer by Dr. E. O. Plumbe, who moved the office and material of the Sioux County Independent from Alton. It was published in Rock Valley till December, 1880, when it was purchased by Rufus Stone, and removed to Calliope, and later to Hawarden.

Wm. Shipman erected the second dwelling the same summer, and in the fall, O. J. Dunham erected a hotel on the corner where the Warren is now located.

A. J. "Top" Wetmore was the first station agent, being transferred from Fairview, S. D. He had been an agent for the Northern Pacific in Minnesota. Two section houses were used for a depot till one was erected during the summer.

Probably the first religious service in Rock Township was held by Rev. John Runyun, previously mentioned, who belonged to the Methodist denomination.

The first school house in the township was built in the center of Section 8, northwest of Rock Valley, the second a mile east of town about where M. B. Smith later resided. Mrs. E. O. Plumbe taught the first school in Rock Valley, in a school house moved from location near the northwest corner of town, to north Main Street. This was in the winter of 1879 and '80.

As stated before, E. Rhodes was the first merchant; the next was

R. L. Rowe in 1881. Rowe was on the corner now occupied by Corner Drug Store. J. B. Foppe opened a general store in March 1882. Rhodes sold in 1880 to A. L. Burnell, who in turn sold to Henry Durland. Cummings and Sheridan, and H. H. Case were also pioneer merchants during the eighties; they were all eventually absorbed by Foppe, except the clothing and dry goods of Rowe & Bunting.

Sometime during 1882 or '83, Tom Stephenson, who had previously conducted the Dunham hotel, erected the building on the corner of Main and 13th. St., and opened a second hotel. He was succeeded in turn by H. M. Handy, Sr., and J. W. Bogess. The building was afterward used by J. C. Vitzthum as an office.

The Rock Mills postoffice was moved soon after the town was located to the Rhodes store, postmaster Finch resigning in favor of R. L. Rowe, with Rhodes as deputy. The name was soon changed to Rock Valley. Rowe continued as postmaster till 1885, when he was succeeded by James Parden.

Dr. E. O. Plumbe was the first physician and opened a drug stock in January, 1881, in the former printing office. Dr. C. M. McBride located in Rock Valley in 1882, and opened a drug stock in the store of R. L. Rowe. It was afterward moved to the store occupied by J. H. Schemmer. Henry Schemmer opened a blacksmith and wagon shop in 1881. B. F. McCormick opened the first hardware store in the early eighties, erecting the building later used by A. F. Schemmer for the same purpose. McCormick also did a banking business, although other parties had previously issued personal checks on Sioux City and Milwaukee.

Geo. Sanford and D. G. Galbraith were the pioneer lumbermen. Sanford was succeeded by Lamb & Sons. Byron Wilson erected the building and opened the pioneer livery stable in 1879.

The Register was started in 1883 by J. M. Parsons, but was abandoned after a few months. The plant being owned by the business men remained. It had a spasmodic existence till January, 1885, when Grant D. Harrington took charge. The Bee was later started by G. L. Hurd, who after a few years, purchased the Register and consolidated the papers. The Gazette was a later venture by T. H. McGuire. It survived a year or two.

James E. Douglas was the first attorney in Rock Valley and he was also the first notary public. The pioneer harness shop was opened by Alex. Contts and later conducted by G. A. Dunham. S. Dischler also went into the same business during the eighties.

After the destruction of the Rock Valley mills in 1881 by the flood of that year, the water power was purchased by Mr. Rounds of Sioux City, and the Rock Valley mills erected "on the cut-off" west of town and operated by water power. Later auxiliary steam power was added. The mills, being damaged by high water, were moved to a site south of the depot, enlarged, and a 75 horsepower Corliss engine installed. A side track was afterward run to the mills, and an elevator mill for storage purposes.

Mulhall Bros. started a land and banking business in 1885 and continued until the bank fixtures were purchased by Large Bros., later the First National. Harrington and Harris opened a land and exchange office about the same time, which afterwards became the State Bank of Rock Valley.

The town was incorporated in 1889, C. W. Carter being the first mayor. He was succeeded in the spring of that year by W. C. Leonard. The winter of 1880 and '81 will long be remembered by the old residents, not only of Rock Valley and Rock Township, but the entire northwest. The winter began with a three days' blizzard in November, and although comparatively pleasant weather suc-

ceeded, much of the snow remained on the ground the entire winter. January, 1881, was a month of wind, snow and storm. February saw the railroads blocked, and travel and traffic practically suspended. The last train on the main line passed through Rock Valley going east on January 31, and from Yankton and Sioux City, over the Hudson branch, on February 3. From that time until early in April, when a snow plow forced its way through from the west, communication with the outside world was entirely cut off, except that early in February the first mail was received by team. A. L. Burnell, with Geo. Sanford and Dr. E. O. Plumbe, worked nearly all night sorting over 34 sacks of newspapers to obtain the local mail. Even the country roads were impassible. With the opening of spring a new calamity was presented. The immense volume of snow began to go off with a rush, washing out bridges, both on the roads and railroads. The bridges of the Milwaukee road, both over the Rock and Sioux Rivers, went out as also the iron wagon bridge north of town, hitherto considered secure against any such accident. Ferries were established over the Rock and Sioux and operated during the entire summer.

The first church service in Rock Valley was held in the school house in 1879 by Rev. McVey of the United Brethren denomination. He was succeeded by Rev. Chase of the same church.

The first Catholic service was held by Rev. Lynch in 1880 in the school house. The Methodist Episcopal Church was erected in 1882 with Rev. J. R. Faus as minister, being on the Hull circuit. Rev. G. W. Barnes was the first resident minister in 1887. St. Mary's Catholic church was erected in 1882, Rev. John A. O'Rielly having charge of the parish. The United Presbyterian church was organized in 1880 with Rev. Graham as minister. The Dutch Reformed church was built in 1891,

Rev. John Huizenga minister. The Scandinavian Lutherans had erected about 1890, a church building on West Fourth street which was later sold to the Christian Dutch Reformed organization, with Rev. Van Der Bok as pastor. The Christian Scientists, a little later, erected a church building on 16th St., with Miss Minnie Grossenberg as first reader.

The Independent school district was organized in 1887, and the original portion of the public school building was erected shortly afterwards. It was later enlarged and veneered with brick.

In 1880 Stewart Bros. erected a building where Schemmer & Son were later located. It was later moved further south to where In't Velds Hardware now stands. Rev. Dr. Rust, a United Brethren preacher and Homeopathic physician, erected the dwelling now occupied by D. Scanlan.

The first marriage in Rock Valley was a couple from the northwest part of the country. The ceremony was performed in the late fall of 1879 by Dr. E. O. Plumbe as justice of the peace, no Dominie being attainable. The names of the parties have passed into oblivion.

Mr. and Mrs. John Murphy were the parents of the first child born in Rock Valley. It survived but a short time. The second child was born to Henry Holmes and wife.

A. Zwebel, about 1888, started a machine shop which he operated for several years, when he returned to Wisconsin.

Kolley and Speiser opened a blacksmith shop at an early day, on the corner of Main and 15th Streets. A year or two after the death of Speiser, in 1893, it passed into the hands of H. Schemmer, who also absorbed the wood-working establishment of J. H. Lynch, forming a machine and repair shop and Schemmer & Son.

The City Water Works system was installed in 1897, the mains

extended so that all portions of the town could be reached in case of fire, and an apparently inexhaustable supply of pure water is furnished for all purposes. Their capacity has been severely tested on more than one occasion.

A lighting system was installed in 1903.

Rock Valley lodge, I. O. O. F., was organized in 1887, and has continued in operation ever since. Robert Roantree, manager of the Rock Valley Mills, was a charter member.

The A. F. and A. M., the Knights of Pythias, the Good Templars, the Royal Neighbors, A. O. U. W., all existed for a time, but nearly all surrendered their charters. In addition the Odd Fellows, Rock Valley Camp M. W. A., Gem Rebeka Lodge, Catholic Foresters and Yoemen of America were also pioneer organizations.

Before it is too late, mention must be made of a Fourth of July celebration on Rock River in 1875, near the iron bridge north of town, under the auspices of Royal Grange, which had an extensive membership in the northwest part of the county. Probably six hundred people, old and young, were present, all known to Dr. E. O. Plumbe, who had treated professionally a large portion of them. Being county superintendent of schools and master of a grange, it fell to the lot of Dr. Plumbe to do the "spread eagle" on the occasion. The day wound up with a dance in the Rock mills, the building for which was just completed.

About 1882, James Parden moved from Sheldon and erected a building on the corner of Main and 15th St. It contained a double store building, occupied by the Foppe store, and a public hall above, used for all purposes. Previous to that time church services had been held in the school house and later in the Methodist and Catholic churches. The school house was used for

elections, public meetings and entertainments. Dances, except in very cold weather, were given in the "flat house" located where the Hunting elevator later stood. The orchestra in those days was composed of J. M. Bennett and daughter, Ed Sherman and Dr. Plumbe. The "repertoire" was composed of good old fashioned quadrilles and round dances, and with few exceptions, everybody in town danced.

Mention was omitted of the fact that in 1885 Finch Bros. opened a general store on Main St., which was later sold to B. F. McCormick, M. J. Finch having been elected clerk of courts. McCormick sold his general stock to Beckman Bros., who soon after removed it to Lake City, Iowa. The McCormick hardware stock was sold to Skewis and McLean.

Mention must be made among the first merchants, of Geo. Watt, who moved a general stock from Calliope, and after a time sold to Mulder and Van Der Einde, who in turn sold to Alex. Kemper, and he to E. Eldredge who conducted the Leader Store.

H. J. Plate was the first shoemaker, erecting the building later occupied by J. H. Schemmer which he shared with the Foppe Store. Louis Plate operated the first barber shop, succeeded by Frank Schemmer, and he by John Frembgén.

James Parden opened the first stock of furniture, being succeeded by J. L. Finch, and he by S. C. Haines. John Maher opened a second stock in the store later occupied by Gerla & Roelofs, later purchasing the Haines furniture, selling out to Peter McKellar, and he to M. S. Huie. The Warren hotel and the opera house block were erected by Mulhall Bros. in 1892, the former Dunham hotel building being moved to its present location on 14th St., half a block from Main St. A brass band was organized in the early eighties, but as the members are scattered no definite information can be obtained re-

garding it.

About 1884 John Mandercheid came from Sheldon and erected a two story building, used for a saloon below and a residence above. Ed Rhodes, soon after the town was started, opened the first meat market. The years

1872 to 1890 were boom years not only for Rock Township and Rock Valley, but also for the whole of northwestern Sioux County. Township 96, extending across the entire county east and west, mostly owned by non-residents, was rapidly settled, Dr. Plumbe having on one occasion south of Rock Valley, counted no less than twelve teams breaking prairie all in sight at one time. Now as the writer closes this brief and of necessity imperfect sketch let him request that the mantle of charity cover its defects, sins of omission and its unavoidable errors.

"Don't view him with a critic's eye,

But pass his imperfections by."

The above history was written by Dr. E. O. Plumbe in 1908.

Another Version Of Early History

THE HISTORY OF ROCK VALLEY

By Mrs. Eda McKellar

First I must take you to the Section line, a street running east and west, three blocks long, at the north edge of Rock Valley—(21st Street).

About half way on this street a log house was built in the spring of 1875. It sat back from the street or road up a lane, shaded by cottonwood trees which had been planted by the Finch children when they first came to live by the Rock River. A school house was built later about 20 rods east of the house. Later this school house was moved to the present site of Mrs. Dischlers house (1624 Main). The parlor was the original school house and Mrs. E. O.

Plumbe the first teacher. Mr. Wm. F. Richter told of helping move the school house as far as the sand pit north of town on Saturday evening. Hearing that a priest—Father Lynch—was coming to town the next day, the men went to the school house at night, swept and cleaned it by lantern light, and the first Catholic church services were held there in the winter of 1879-1880.

A post office was established in 1872 on a farm about two miles east of the corner of Main and 17th St., located on the top of a hill called Royal Ridge. It was moved to the residence of J. L. Finch at Rock Valley, ½ mile north of Rock Valley in 1876 and called Rock Mills post office. Sam Bellesfield was the pioneer postman of this section, carrying mail to the intermediate points between LeMars and Pipestone. In 1875 L. Finch erected a grist mill ½ mile north of Rock Valley which supplied the community until 1881 when it was destroyed by a flood. The remains of this mill and dam are plainly visible at this location. After the destruction of this mill the water power was purchased by H. E. Rounds and the Rock Valley Mill erected on the cut-off west of town and operated by water power. The mill being damaged in the flood of 1897, it was moved to the present site south east of the depot, where it is now a poultry plant. Flour from this mill was shipped all over the world, carload lots going to England. R. E. Roantree was the manager and to his efforts Rock Valley should be thankful. The flour was called "Roantrees Best."

Rock Valley was platted in 1879. In the fall of 1878 the Milwaukee railroad was built west of Pattersonville, or Hull, two miles. As most towns on this road are on an average of 10 miles apart, the surveyors looked for a town site here. Everyone thought a round-house would be located at this point. Sheldon had no railroad north and south at this

time.

Mr. E. A. Loffswold who owned the land north of the west end of the railroad bridge offered the land free for a town site. A. J. Warren's brother-in-law was the surveyor, and as Warren Bros. owned most of the land in the valley south of the river, they induced the railroad company to plat the town here.

At first 9 blocks were laid out, beginning with the block west of the public school (19th Ave. and 16th St.) thence south 3 blocks, west three blocks. Afterwards the west side of Main street came into the hands of Rounds and Fallgatter who had it platted and sold lots. The first building in town was a saloon where our City Hall now stands (Main and 13th St.) and run by Matt Blaw, followed by a small store building about where Foppe's shoe department now is, conducted by Edwin Rhodes. That same summer Dr. E. O. Plumbe erected the first dwelling house where present Eldredge home now stands (1627-14th St.). He also moved the office of the Sioux County Independent from Alton, publishing it in Rock Valley until Dec. 1880, when it was purchased by Rufus Stone and removed to Calliope and later to Hawarden.

William Shipman erected a second dwelling that summer and started a boarding house (corner 13th St. and 17th Ave.-two houses was cut in two 1890). In the fall O. J. Dunham built a hotel where the Warren now stands. In the spring of 1892 this was moved to 14th St. where it was a hotel until 1909 when it was turned into a hospital run by Dr. Frank Huizenga. Later it was demolished and a home was built and a store building next to the alley was erected by Clarence Schemmer. Two section houses were united and used for a depot with Top Witmore as first agent. Mrs. John Murphy lived in a shack just west of the present depot. A cyclone came up one day. The engineer took Mrs. Murphy and baby onto

the engine and pulled down the track about a mile. When she got back she had to pick up her clothes and belongings back of where the old mill now stands. The second merchant had a store where the Corner Drug store now stands (Main & 14th St.). J. B. Foppe opened a store in March, 1882 on the site of Pembers Drug Store (Main St.) his stock occupying one side of the building and H. J. Plate the other as the first shoe shop in town. Cummings, Chase and Sheridan were also pioneer merchants, but were finally absorbed by Foppe's.

During 1882 or '83 Thomas Stephenson who had previously managed the Dunham hotel, built a building on the corner of Main & 13th St. N. W. corner. This was a second hotel later run by H. Plate, J. W. Bogess and H. M. Handy. For years it was called "The Handy House." By 1952 the building had been all removed and is now used as a cafe.

The Rock Mills post office was moved soon after the town was platted to E. Rhodes store and was known as Rhodes Corner. The name was soon changed to Rock Valley. R. L. Rowe continued as postmaster and Rhodes as deputy until 1885 when he was succeeded by James Parden. E. O. Plumbe was the first physician and opened a drug stock in 1881 in the building now on the alley back of Vans Shoe Sop (1412 Main). Dr. McBride located here in 1882. B. J. McCormack opened the first hardware store where he also did a little private banking. George Sanford and D. G. Galbraith were pioneer lumber men, succeeded by Lamb & Sons. Byron Wilson erected a building and opened the Pioneer Livery Stables in 1879. A weekly paper, The Register, was started in 1880 by Jim Parsons but was abandoned after a few months. The plant, being owned by the business men of the town, remained. It had a spasmodic existence until 1885 when Grant Herrington took charge. The "Bee" was started by

harness shop was conducted by Alec Coutts, succeeded by Art Dunham. This building is still in use at 1518 Main and formerly stood where Foppe's store now stands (14th & Main). Mulhall Bros. started a land and banking business in 1885. Continued until bought out by Large Bros., who organized the First National bank about 1897. This bank did a good business until the bank closed in 1933. Harris and Harrington opened a land and banking business in 1885. Later this became the State Bank which also closed.

Louis Plate was the first barber, then Frank Schemmer, then John Frembgen and Ben Aurit. The building stood on the vacant lot south of the Valley State Bank. Among the first merchants was George Watt, who moved a stock over from Calliope. After a time he sold to Mulder and Van Den Einde who in turn sold to Alec Kemper and he to I. E. Eldredge.

Mr. and Mrs. John Murphy were the parents of the first child born in Rock Valley. It lived but a short time. The second child was born to Henry Holmes and wife.

The Independent School District was organized in 1887, the original portion was erected soon after. About 1890 it was veneered with brick. In 1910 it was torn down and a new building, the present one, was erected—fire proof, brick and modern in every way—then.

The building occupied by Mr. Hulshof (1419 Main) was erected by Stewart Bros. Later it was a hardware store owned by Skewis. It was in this store where the first telephone board was built. George Reynolds helped put up the first wires. One was to Mr. Skewis' house (1811-17th St.) and one to Inwood. Cad Reynolds was the first paid telephone girl followed by Cora Redmond—Mrs. Ernie McKissick of Rock Rapids.

The city water works were installed in the fall of 1897. About 1882 James Pardon moved from Sheldon and erected the building

now known as Kooiman's store (15th & Main). It contained a double store building occupied by Foppe's and a public hall above used for all purposes. Previous to that time church services were held in the school house and later in the M. E. and Catholic churches. The school house was used for elections, public meetings and entertainments. Dances, except in very cold weather, were given in the first house located where the Hunting elevator now stands on the east side of Main St., across from the depot. The orchestra was composed of E. O. Plumbe, J. M. Bennett and daughter and Ed Sherman. Everyone in town danced. James Pardon also built a furniture store located at 1524 Main St. He sold to J. H. Finch, he to F. Haines, he to John Maher—to Peter McKellar to M. S. Huie.

The Warren Hotel and Opera House were erected by the Mulhall Bros. in 1892. The former Dunham hotel was moved to its present location 14th St., in 1909.

A brass band was organized in the early days but had a hectic existence. In 1895 a lady's band was organized which reached the zenith of existence in 1897. The youngest, the drummer was 12 years old and the eldest not quite 19. This band was a great attraction at all celebrations, picnics, fairs, and reunions all over this part of the state. It was married out of existence and your writer is the only one left in Rock Valley. The lighting by electricity was begun in July, 1903, built by Thayer Bros.

The Odd Fellows Lodge was organized in 1888 and has continued ever since. The Masons, Rebekahs, Eastern Star, Daughters of America are all working fraternal societies, while the following have flourished and given up their charters: Good Templars, Royal Neighbors, Modern Woodmen of America, Forresters, Yeomen and G. A. R., with its auxiliary—The Ladies of the G. A. R.

The first Protestant church service in Rock Valley was held

G. L. Hurd in 1895. After a few years he purchased the Register and consolidated the papers. The Gazette was a later venture by Tom McGuire which survived but a year or two. The pioneer in the school house in 1889 by Rev. McVey of the Brethren denomination. He was succeeded by Rev. Chase of the same church. The first M. E. Church was erected in 1832 with Rev. J. R. Faus as minister, being on the Hull circuit. Rev. G. W. Barnes was the first resident minister in 1887. St. Mary's Catholic church was erected in 1832 by Father A. O'Rielly, priest. The U. P. church was organized in 1888 with Rev. Graham as minister. The Dutch Reformed church was built in 1891 with Rev. John Huizenga minister. The Scandinavian Lutherans had erected a church building about 1890 on 16th St. & 14th Ave., which was later sold to the Christian Dutch Reformed organization with Rev. Van Der Rok as pastor. The Christian Science group erected a church on 2010-16th St. with Miss Minnie Grossenberg as first reader. Later this church was disorganized and the building was made into a house. The years from 1884-1890 were boom days not only for Rock Township but also for Rock Valley and the whole northwestern Sioux County. Township 96 extended across the entire county east and west, mostly owned by non-residents, was rapidly settled. At one time south of Rock Valley no less than 12 teams "breaking" prairie sod were in sight at one time.

Mr. Colby was a good steady man and broke many acres of prairie. The ground was so hard and he had so many acres to break he had to go to town every second day to grind breakers—shares. He said the settlers were coming so fast that if he missed a trip there would be a city down there when he came again.

The blizzard of January, 1881 is well known in history, as is the flood in the spring of 1881, when one could go from the

corner of 16 Main and 17 St. to Will Richters farm two miles west of town in a boat.

We have had three epidemics of diphtheria and each time there has been a home where two small children have died and been carried from home at the same time.

The Rock River has its toll of lives. Twice two children have lost their lives together.

Our fire department has been wonderfully successful in putting out fires.

The building at 1624-14th St., was the building built by McCormack for a furniture store and faced the west where the Corner Drug store is now located. Across the alley south was a building which was moved to 1720-13th St., where Mrs. Howell lived so long. Mrs. Kate Schemmer was one of the scholars who stayed in the school house all night of the January 12, 1881 blizzard. Carol Renshaw was the teacher.

Mrs. Lottie Thomas' two sisters were drowned about August 8, 1891. Two Wynia boys were drowned about May 26, 1920.

Boat

In 1890 ten men of Rock Valley gave \$100.00 each to build a pleasure boat to ply the Rock river. Among those who gave were Gus Klein, Herb Rounds, Robert Roantree, C. W. Jacobs, Wm. McLean, W. J. Skewis and Sanford Howe of Inwood. The boat was used for Sunday School picnics and parties. It was guided up the winding Rock river to Doon many times. The boat was taken to East Okoboji lake in 1898 where Sanford Howe and George Skewis were owners. Those days the traffic about the lakes was by boat. When the lakes were low the large boats could not come up to the dock at Chatauqua Park, so the Rock Valley was used to carry passengers through The Narrows from "The Orleans" to the park, and from Arnolds Park to the Park also. Later the boat was sold to someone at Wall Lake. All the years it was in East Okoboji it kept its name "The Rock Valley."

Bee Files Contain Much Local History

THE ROCK VALLEY STORY As Told In The Rock Valley Bee January 1, 1883

The Sioux County Bee, Rock Valley, Iowa, published their first paper.

In 1885 Grant D. Harrington came to Rock Valley and established the Rock Valley Register which was later consolidated with the Rock Valley Bee.

1892

The ladies of Rock Valley are taking advantage of their Leap Year privileges and sleighing parties, whist parties, and a hop, are their plans for the week's festivities.

The following order of dance was enjoyed, Miss Cora Klein and Mr. Geo. Hollenbeck and Miss Lottie Klein and Mr. Harley Smith leading the grand march.

Mr. Joseph Wiggerman and wife Loretta Tenn, are expected in Rock Valley about the first of February and will make their future home in Rock Valley.

Will Mulhall has received an elegant two seated surrey made by the Henney Buggy Company of Freeport, Ill. It is a beauty, and adds one to Rock Valley's numerous fine turnouts.

Plans have been drawn and accepted for an elegant two story brick hotel, store and bank building which is to be erected on the premises now occupied by the Dunham house and the Farmers Bank and the vacant lot lying between the two.

Messrs Mulhall Bros., K. Foppe, A. J. Warren and Thomas L. Warren are the parties who will furnish this substantial evidence of their faith in the future of Rock Valley.

The ice which is being cut on the mill pond is of the very best quality produced anywhere and Rock Valley is becoming famous for its clear crystal ice.

C. W. Carter wants to buy 25 hogs, and 1000 bushels of corn. He also has a farm of 240 acres to rent for \$2.25 an acre.

A large commodious barn is being erected in the rear of the Holland church for the accommodation of those attending church. It will hold from 40 to 50 teams. It is a good move.

C. D. O'Brien has sold his quarter section farm near Alvord to C. H. Barron, the price paid being \$29.00 an acre.

A movement has been started here for the erection and maintenance of an independent elevator.

Word was received from Canton this week that the steamer, the "Rock Valley" would be here next Monday. Outside towns are invited to come and enjoy a trip on the silvery waters.

On Saturday the deal for Baumann Bros. elevator was closed. Mr. H. J. Baumann of Milwaukee was here, and the deed for the plant was delivered to the Farmers Independent Elevator Co.

The steamer "Rock Valley" will make regular excursions, pleasant Sunday afternoons, leaving the dock each hour.

City Council meeting—voted levy of 10 mills on the dollar on all taxable property.

The new bridge north of town has been graded and is now in good shape, and teams may drive over same.

The work of the brick block is progressing rapidly. Mr. Sulzbach, the contractor, with his workmen, commenced work on Thursday last, and they now have the north wall over half way up.

The convent school opened last week with a very good attendance. Besides the usual English and Commercial branches, the studies include German, vocal and instrumental music, painting, and drawing.

The Coffey-Dam having been built, there is now plenty of water, and on Sunday last, the steamer "Rock Valley" was running and a large number availed themselves of this opportunity to take

a pleasant ride.

The German Lutherans will hold services at the school house in Rock Valley on next Sunday p. m. Oct. 2, at 3 o'clock. The services will be conducted by Rev. Carl Hopf, of Plato Twp. All are most cordially invited to attend.

The foundation's walls for Mulhall Bros building are about completed. It is not thought, however, that the building will be completed before spring.

The wrestling match which was to have taken place last Saturday did not materialize, as one of the parties failed to appear and the money that was put up was turned over by Doc. Ellis, the stakeholder, and forfeited.

Doc. Ellis says he is willing to back his man, Chas. Johnson of Doon Twp. vs. any one in this vicinity, for a match, "catch-as-catch-can" best two in three falls.

A match will probably be arranged soon with a party from Hawarden.

The Beyer residence has been sold to the Holland church trustees, and will be used for a parsonage. The purchase price was \$1,900.

J. H. Teller challenges anyone in Sioux County, and will put up \$50 to back it, to beat his record. On last Friday on the Kent place a mile northwest of town, he threshed 56 bu. of flax in 30 minutes. Wenzel Stransky timed him and the time is correct.

Mulhall Bros. have decided to complete their bldg. on the old Teller corner this fall and will commence work on same as soon as the foundation walls are completed.

Election day here passed off quietly, the weather being fine. The total vote was 304, not as large by 3 votes as last fall's vote. The Australian ballot system worked quite satisfactory.

Plate Bros. have sold their corner restaurant stock to Seth and Artie Fuller, the latter taking possession last week. The boys propose running a first class es-

tablishment and will undoubtedly succeed.

The new society hall over Smith, Rees, and Stengels's store will be completed by Dec. 1. The Odd Fellows have ordered fixtures which are expected here by that time. The hall will be fitted up especially for the purpose of the lodges and will make handsome quarters.

James P. Mulhall will re-open his livery barn on Sunday morning. He now has a fine lot of horses and requests all former patrons to call.

A bad storm, being about up to the standard of a blizzard, raged all day last Friday. Pedestrians found walking rather laborious on account of the icy coating with which the walks were covered.

The new brick block, known as the Warren Block, was on last Friday turned over to the owners by the contractor, Mr. F. J. Sulzbach of Sioux City, he having completed his work on same.

John C. Dussel will start a milk wagon in Rock Valley on Monday next, Dec. 19.

All wishing him to supply them with milk will leave their orders at J. P. Orcutt's store.

The doors and windows for the Warren Block, which have been delayed so long, have arrived and are being placed in position, giving the structure a more finished appearance.

Kessler Bros. are industriously engaged in getting out ice. The mill pond and the sparkling water of the rushing Rock, afford a splendid opportunity for such an undertaking. Besides a number of persons here they will supply parties in Hull and Boyden.

1893

George Watts' new team attracted much attention on our streets last Sunday. They are steppers for a fact, and we noticed as they flew past our window that they resembled each other very much, especially the one furthest this way. They are as black as a crow, as fleet as a jack rabbit, and as proud as a pea-

cock.

Dodds and Pennay, who have so long and satisfactorily supplied our people with choice roasts and juicy steaks, have sold their market to Atwood and Little, who will cater to the public wants at the old stand. The Register suggests that the new firm be given a fair trial.

Messrs. Warren, Mulhall, and Foppe, have contracted with C. McGarern, of Sioux Falls, for the necessary fixtures for heating the new Warren Block with steam. This new structure, with its fine hotel will be a splendid addition to our thriving little city and its enterprising projectors are deserving of much praise for their public spirited liberality.

Foppe has shown us a diagram of the interior of his new brick store in the new Warren Block. When completed this will probably be the most capacious as well as the finest store room in N. W. Iowa. It is of double breadth and good height and 120 feet deep.

Important sales of real estate are becoming quite common, and that at good round figures. There is no investment possible in this country so safe as that of lands. Even at the greatly advanced price over that of a few years ago, the tendency is still upward, and the top will not be reached for some years to come. Farms which may be bought in Sioux County today for \$35 per acre are really of greater intrinsic value than those in the eastern part of the state which are readily bringing from \$50 to \$60 or those in Illinois which sell for \$75 to \$100 per acre.

Attention is called to the new ad, of G. D. Reynolds. This gentleman has but recently started a drug store in this place, but by close attention to business and a nice clean, and new stock of goods, he has built up a fine trade. He has a large variety of wall paper to which he invites attention.

Work is still being crowded on

the new hotel, but the time when was lost by the heating apparatus being snowbound in Minn., will never be regained. It will likely be well along in May before it will be ready for occupancy.

The general impression now is that baseball, as an amusement, has passed its zenith, and is on the wane. There should be few tears shed on account of its demise. It was handicapped with too many excessive vices.

The parlor windows in the new hotel were put in Saturday, and add very much to the beauty of the structure.

The new Lutheran church has been neatly painted and a steeple erected.

Work on the new block corner of Kimball Avenue and Mitchell Streets was commenced Saturday last, the long looked-for lumber having arrived.

A special immigrant train is now run over the Milwaukee Road—South Dakota road, to accommodate the exodus to the promised land, between the Big Sioux and the Missouri.

That Rock Valley is rapidly pushing to the front and is entitled to the name of being one of the best and liveliest towns in Northwest Iowa, is being conceded. The volume of business here is far greater than that of any town in this vicinity. The record of the past year shows an unprecedented growth of the town, both in population and wealth and it is safe to say that we now number not far from 1500 souls. In the matter of building and improvements we have made great strides, and the outlook for this year is indeed flattering. Work on the waterworks will undoubtedly soon begin, and this, along with several private and public enterprises, among which is the erection of a city hall, will make a prosperous year for the town of Rock Valley.

The new hotel, the "Warren" is now open to the public.

Our mercantile friend, Mr. Foppe, the pioneer merchant, be-

gan on Wednesday last, to move his mammoth emporium to his new and commodious storeroom in the Warren block, which is especially fitted up for his accommodation.

Headline: "Mr. Foppe This Week Takes Possession of His New Store"

(He first opened business in 1882).

The mill dam was finished Wednesday after a month's labor.

The sisters of the order of St. Francis, who have conducted St. Mary's academy here for the past year and made it an institution of learning which is not equalled in this part of the state, left Wednesday for Dubuque where the annual retreat of the order will take place next week. They will return to open the academy in September.

George Drey has purchased the implement business of Rees and Stengel. Mr. Drey also purchased the residence property of Mr. Stengel. Mr. Stengel accepted a quarter section of Lincoln County land as part payment of the deal.

Market Report

Wheat .....	.45 bu.
Oats .....	.18 "
Corn .....	.25 "
Flax .....	.80 "
Hogs	4.75

The Rock Valley Flouring Mills are now running night and day at their fullest capacity to fill the orders they receive daily. This week they received direct from Hull, England, an order for three carloads of "Roantree's Best" flour to be shipped at once. It will take 600 sacks of 140 pounds each to fill the order.

The Honorable A. J. Warren who was renominated as Democratic candidate for representative has declined the nomination due to ill health. T. H. Dunham was nominated in Mr. Warren's place.

James Lundie has sold his farm east of town for \$40 an acre.

The new Mulhall Opera House has just received the finishing touches. It has a seating capacity

of 300 and will be opened soon.

1894

The City Council purchased a two wheel Champion chemical engine with 150 feet of hose and necessary attachments. The capacity of the engine is 100 gallons which will give ample fire protection to Rock Valley.

The first annual commencement of the Rock Valley high school was held in Mulhall's Opera House on Friday evening, June 8. The graduating class consisted of Ruben Shaw and Will Kent.

Monday the hotel Warren will change hands. Jesmer and Day retired and Bert Marshall, a hotel man from Sioux City, will take charge.

Wm. Dealy, A. Vander Meide, and O. Waldorf, a committee on highway of the board of supervisors, were in Rock Valley Wednesday in relation to establishing a highway east of town on Section 22.

H. M. Handy has bought the LaVere house and will take possession next week. Mr. Handy is an old hotel man and a most popular one.

Iowa coal sold at \$3.75 a ton on track and \$4.00 in bin.

Rock Valley is coming to the front as a progressive town. The citizens have organized an amusement association and propose to secure the best talent possible.

A large stable has been built in the rear of the Pritchard-Skewis Lumber Company's office for the U. P. church.

Alfred Henderson has opened a shoemakers shop in one of the rooms recently vacated by Louis Plate.

Telephone connections have been made with our city and the line works well.

1895

Plate Bros. have decided to put up a large building east of the Hunting Elevator to be used by them for coal storage, warehouse, or refrigerator building.

K. Foppe, the pioneer merch-

ant, is having his large and elegant storeroom decorated on the interior.

C. W. Kent traded his livery stable to Thomas Maguire.

The little steamer "Rock Valley" which has run on the Rock River for several seasons past has been purchased by Messrs. Skewes and Prichard, who will take the boat to Spirit Lake and it will be used there the coming season.

Frank Huizenga graduated from Rush Medical college at Chicago last Wednesday as a full fledged M. D.

The new bakery of Brentling and Co. are now ready to cater to the public.

The ladies' band made their first appearance Tuesday evening.

Ed Lincoln sold his farm in Garfield Township to Will Mulhall for \$35 an acre.

W. F. Stengel purchased the hardware store of M. B. Smith.

1896

Henry Schemmer has purchased the blacksmith shop from P. D. Kelly.

De Vries Bros. of Boyden have purchased the butcher shop owned by S. A. Dean and took possession Monday.

Rock Valley's newest industry, the creamery, is prospering with seventy-five customers on the pay-roll. John Cronin is the proprietor.

Advertisement—Town lots and lands for sale on easy terms. A. J. Warren proprietor of Town Site Rock Valley, Iowa.

A cemetery association was formed by a few ladies.

1897

Rock Valley's two town papers, the Rock Valley Register and the Rock Valley Bee, were consolidated. The list of subscribers were taken within a radius of eight to ten miles. G. L. Hurd is the editor.

Rock Valley has installed waterworks at a cost of \$5800. The new tank is 87 feet high and con-

tains 4200 gallons.

A new lodge known as the "Patriots of America" has been organized. It is a political organization whose purpose is to oppose the gold standard.

An old fashioned spelling school was held with scholars attending from miles around. It was presented under the auspices of the W. R. C. with admission of five cents.

1898

Mrs. C. W. Jacobs attended the National Woman's Suffrage convention at Washington, D. C. as a delegate.

Misses Minard and Miller of Bourbon, Indiana, purchased the Gacke Millinery Shop.

The new firebell was hung at the top of the waterworks tower where, in case of fire, it can be heard without using the church bells.

C. M. Elder has been appointed Post Master of Rock Valley.

H. M. Handy has opened "Handy House" as a hotel.

A gymnasium completely fitted for development of muscle and strength has been opened in the old Finch Furniture Store.

The Rock Valley Bee sponsored a pumpkin raising contest with an elegant \$40 Spring wagon as first prize.

The Rock Valley Machine Shops, under the ownership of Mr. A. Zwiebel, has outgrown all competitors in the West. About thirty workmen are employed during the busy season with three men on the road selling.

The Ladies' and Boys' Bands played for the boys departing to join Co. E for the Spanish American War.

Our creamery shipped eighteen tubs of butter last Thursday.

Two carloads of watermains have arrived this week for extensions of Rock Valley's waterworks system.

About forty of the young men of Rock Valley met in the office of J. C. Vitzthum Monday night

and formed a society to be known as the Rock Valley Pleasure Club. J. J. Neil was elected Chairman; J. A. Gartland Secretary and A. A. Stensvad Treasurer.

The extension of the Rock Valley Telephone Company's line has been accomplished as far as Sheldon.

Safe blowers visited Eldredges Leader store Monday night.

The Rock Valley Creamery burned down Monday night. Nothing was saved but the firm's books and a desk. The loss was about \$2,500 with \$1,000 insurance.

1899

The first annual Rock Valley District Fair was held in September, 1899. The following names are the superintendents of the different departments of the Fair:

Track: James Downey
Horse Department: H. M. Corwin.
Cattle Department: James Walpole.
Swine: W. J. Mc Lean.
Sheep: Frank Doherty.
Poultry: R. E. Roantree.
Floral Hall: W. J. Skewis.
Culinary Department: Mrs. W. J. Mc Lean.
Fruit and Preserves: Mrs. W. H. Anderson.
Needlework: E. C. Simmons.
Flowers and Plants: Mrs. S. Dishler.
Fine Arts and Painting: Mrs. A. Thayer.
Speed Department: C. Scanlon and A. Thayer.
Amphitheatre: I. S. Large.
There were \$2,000 in purses and premiums.

The Rock Valley High School established a normal training course.

Street Commissioner Shipman has placed signs at the entrance of roads leading into town warning motorists that speed limits will be twelve miles per hour.

A short cut by the Milwaukee Road from Storm Lake to the Iowa and South Dakota division at Rock Valley. That is the new

railway extension which the Des Moines Leader asserts is announced on competent authority.

The statement of the State Bank of Rock Valley shows that institution to be in excellent condition. The deposits amount to over \$94,000 and it has in loans and discounts \$76,786.

Dr. Huizenga's new residence has been enclosed this week and when completed it will be one of the finest homes in Rock Valley.

Rock Valley Markets

Wheat .....	.55 & .56
Barley .....	.24 & .31
Corn .....	.21
Oats .....	.18
Flax .....	.95
Coal	\$3.00 & \$5.00
Hogs	\$3.50
Butter .....	.15
Eggs .....	.14
Chickens .....	.04½

Rock Valley now has as nobby postoffice as there is in the state—size of town considered. Postmaster Elder has added one hundred dollars worth of new combination lock boxes at his own expense.

1900

H. Koel will start a new milk route next week to supply the people of Rock Valley.

The Warren Hotel changed hands August 1st.

The second annual Rock Valley District Fair was held at the Fair Grounds. In the garden, vegetable, and grain departments 130 different entries were exhibited. Also a large number of entries were made in poultry classes as well as in thoroughbred hogs, cattle, and horses. County attorney Van Oosterhout acted as one of the judges for the horse races.

H. E. Rounds has installed a splendid electric light plant in the mill for lighting the buiding and office.

H. M. Handy, Jr. and James Thomas have become proprietors of The Warren Hotel.

1901

G. L. Hurd, editor and proprietor of the Rock Valley Bee, sold

a one-half interest to E. D. Brown.

In the year 1901 Sioux County land sold for \$17.50 to \$30 an acre.

In the year 1901 A. F. Schemmer purchased the E. C. Simons hardware store and was assisted by Wm. Bolzer, John Higgins, and Frank Tashaller.

Dr. Mc Bride moved to Idaho after being in Rock Valley 20 years. Dr. Blatherwick was his successor.

Rural mail delivery began on three routes by carriers—Postma, Chisholm and Lewis Dean.

The Rock Valley Depot was enlarged by the addition of a large ladies' waiting room.

A third Drug Store was opened by Geo. De Bey.

1902

Henry Splear put in a new hardware store 3 doors east of the postoffice.

Mr. S. Dischler sold one-half interest of his harness store and coal business to his son Chas. P. Dichler.

A Rock Valley band was reorganized with Don McKellar as leader with 15 members.

The work on the superstructure of the handsome new Foppe block is progressing rapidly. The second floor will be furnished with lodge rooms, banquet rooms, property rooms, etc. The building will be one of the handsomest business blocks in northwest Iowa.

There is a new clothing store in town. It will be found in the building lately vacated by Henry Splear, the hardware man.

De Bey and Mulder are busy as ever putting in cement walks. They just completed the walk around the new Foppe Pioneer Store.

The Foppe Pioneer Store's new delivery wagon, the first delivery wagon ever used in Rock Valley, presents a nobby appearance and is a good advertisement.

Dr.'s Huizenga will have the suite of three offices in the southwest corner on the second floor

of the new Foppe block.

Dr. Dick Huizenga got aboard the train Monday morning for Des Moines, where he went to pass the state board exam.

Dr's. Frank and Dick Huizenga have a fine new saddle and are riding horseback to attend some of their numerous calls.

Contractor Allen has a crew of bridge men putting up the new Carter bridge.

1903

"Uncle Tommy" Warren was found dead yesterday afternoon in his room. The deceased is a brother of Col. A. J. Warren.

Hurrah for Rock Valley! The highest market prices are paid for produce here.

There will be no graduating class in the public schools this year. Suitable exercises will be held Friday.

Rock Valley's gravel pits are becoming famous and necessary to many other towns besides Rock Valley. They have shipped large quantities to Hull, Boyden, Sanborn, and Inwood.

It is expected that the gasoline lights which have been ordered for the streets of Rock Valley will arrive soon.

Wednesday of next week will be special ladies day at the bowling alley. On that occasion all the alley's will be fixed up in particularly good shape and no men will be allowed to intrude upon the enjoyment of the ladies.

A mandolin orchestra was organized last week to furnish music for all occasions in Rock Valley. The instruments consist of two mandolins, a banjo and guitar. The mandolins are played by Richard Sipma and William Balzer; the banjo by G. Ernest McRisick and the guitar by George Reynolds.

We the undersigned merchants doing business in Rock Valley, Iowa, hereby agree to close our respective places of business at eight (8) o'clock p. m. sharp, every evening except on Saturday nights and during the Christmas week.

Foppe Pioneer Store—S. Gelley
A. J. Schirmer — E. Eldredge
H. Hulshof has arrived in Rock
Valley from Ellsworth, Minne-
sota, and will open a Jewelry
store in the De Bey drug store.

1904

Arrangements are being made
whereby Rock Valley will have a
summer school next summer dur-
ing the five weeks immediately
preceding the county institute.

Judge Oliver this morning in
the district court decided that
the Rock Valley Bee should be
one of the official papers of Sioux
City, Iowa, for the year 1904.
Olin G. Reiniger and John E. Orr
attorneys for the Bee.

After the first of March, A.
Roelofs will become associated
with H. H. Gerla in the general
merchandise business.

At a special meeting of the city
council held last Friday evening
Bowen and Handy were granted
a saloon license. They expect to
open up early next week.

The Rock Valley fair is billed
to take place August 31, Septem-
ber 1 and 2nd will be a hum-
dinger as usual.

1905

The Rock Valley Military Band
deserves much praise. The con-
cert Saturday night was fine—
right up to standard—and very
much enjoyed by all who heard
it. Long live the band.

Dennis Scanlan received word
last week that the two stand-
ard horses bred and raised by him
were out on the racing circuits
this year. Bodock, who was sold
last year for \$350, started in two
races with five starters in each
race in eastern Iowa and won sec-
ond in both races. The mare,
Locket, which Mr. Scanlan sold
to F. J. Campbell of Omaha, has
started in four races, winning
first in all of them.

Mr. Day has added a pasteuriz-
ing plant to his creamery equip-
ment. The new plant has a capa-
city of 3500 pounds an hour.

1906

The firm of Dodds & Vogelaar
will conduct the City Meat Mark-

et, hereafter. L. Vogelaar, the
new member, is a young man of
sterling qualities, and will make
a valuable aid to M. Dodds in
conducting the City Meat Market.

When Rock Valley has a new
lighting plant, let it be electrical,
run by the never failing motor of
the Rock River, which would give
an all night system with practi-
cally no expense and very little
attention; we could also furnish
power for a trolley line from Al-
ton to Rock Valley from the same
source. When the Milwaukee road
gets its trans-continental line in
operation, look out for surprises,
and Rock Valley will not be left
out in the cold either.

The Rock Valley orchestra will
give another one of those popu-
lar dances in Foppe's Hall, Fri-
day evening, January 26. A cord-
ial invitation is extended to all.
Good management assured.

The Bee is pleased to announce
that the Rock Valley District
Fair management is alive and
getting things into shape for an-
other fair. The officers and direc-
tors are busy getting ready to
give the people of Rock Valley
and adjacent communities one of
the best fairs in the history of
the association.

Dr's. Huizenga have found it
necessary to establish a temporary
hospital owing to the number of
surgical operations that they have
on hand at the present time. It
has been the ambition of Dr. F.
J. Huizenga for some time to one
day be in charge of a hospital all
his own in Rock Valley. His suc-
cess as a surgeon has demonstrat-
ed that he would make a worthy
chief of such an institution. The
hospital is located two blocks
east of the United Presbyterian
church.

Rock Valley Opera House, one
night only, Monday, February
19: The funniest of all farce com-
edies. "Ole Olson in Spiritland."
Three act license for laughter.
Popular prices—25, 35, and 50c.
Charley Dischler sold out his

news stand and confectionery and tobacco store last Thursday to Warny Smith and C. E. Heinsen. Warny will have charge of the store while Mr. Heinsen will continue in charge of the Hunting elevator.

State Bank will have new quarters in the Foppe Pioneer Store. In February of 1888 the State Bank of Rock Valley was organized. E. W. Hozard of Hull was chosen president. Grant Harrington, editor of the Rock Valley Register, was chosen vice-president. J. T. L. Harris was named cashier. These officers piloted the second bank through its infancy and kept plugging away till Nov. when Mr. Bunting was elected to succeed Mr. Harris. For the 1st year and a half Mr. Bunting was office boy, janitor, bookkeeper, and cashier and worked all day at the desk and till midnight on the books. The southwest portion of Foppe Store has been leased for ten years. Remodeling is in charge of a Sioux City architect. New quarters are to be ready by May 1st. This is a fine location and the bank people may congratulate themselves upon being able to secure it.

Rock Valley is already quite noted for the number of automobiles owned here. There are five of them owned by the following: Dr. F. J. Huizenga, Kessler Bros., Burton Walruth, J. A. Parkinson and Ben Schemmer.

The Postmaster General has issued a notice that all rural mail carriers have the right of way on all country roads, and that all other carriages or conveyances must surrender the right of way to the rural carriers. This order was issued as a result of complaints on the part of carriers who were not able to deliver their mail in the specified time, as carriages and conveyances refused the right of way, and often made

it necessary to drive slower or wait until the road was clear, before they could proceed. A fine was charged to all who in any way interfered with the speedy delivery of rural mail and as a carrier is also fined and some times deposed for late delivery, he therefore will no doubt see to it that any person responsible for his delay will bear the punishment instead of himself.

Rock Valley Finances—May 4, 1903.

Readers of the Bee will be glad to learn that the town finances are in excellent condition. This is our say so, at least. It can easily be corroborated by consulting the treasurer's biannual report now on file with city clerk, J. C. Wiggerman.

Notice:—All parties wishing meat delivery for dinner will please phone their order before 9:00 a. m. to insure delivery. My wagon will leave for the country at that time and deliveries must be made by a boy who is attending school.—New Meat Market

Going away—Chas. Dischler has been busy packing up his household goods this week. Charley has several good openings in North Dakota and does not know where he will locate. Friends of Mr. and Mrs. Dischler regret their leaving Rock Valley where they have grown from childhood to become most worthy citizens. The Bee joins with their friends in wishing them the best their new home may afford in everything that makes for success and prosperity.

A Record Breaker — Rock Valley and vicinity had nine fires last week, something unusual for a town of its size. The fire department was called out five times and the exhibitions by the fire company, demonstrated that Rock Valley fire ladders are strictly okay. The boys say that they have earned their poll taxes for this year.

Fish stories—

A few days ago, a story was circulating that someone living down near Sam Hofer's place caught a catfish weighing 31 lbs. Joe Wiggerman thought he held the belt for catching the biggest pike—a six pounder, but Al Richter beat him by catching one that tipped the beam at seven and a half pounds. Joe Wiggerman comes up smiling and says he still holds the record for catching the biggest catfish near Rock Valley—a thirteen pounder. So come to Rock Valley.

Moving Drug Store—

H. H. Pember, Rock Valley's oldest druggist is moving his stock across the street into the store recently vacated by P. D. Grootes the Enterprising Hardware Monday. The new location gives Mr. Pember a larger, roomier store in which to display his several lines of goods. The Bee hopes Mr. Pember will continue to prosper in his new location.

Rock Valley is considering getting the electric Interurban which will run from Sioux City to Doon through Rock Valley.

Ben Schemmer is building a new shop.

Halloween Proclamation—All persons are hereby warned against unlawfully assembling to the number of three or more on Halloween. Signed, E. O. Plumbe, Mayor.

Dr. A. P. Smith, Veterinary, has located in Rock Valley.

1907

The First National Bank has installed new roll top desks.

The State Bank of Rock Valley held its annual meeting of election of officers. John J. Schlund elected President; C. J. Fink, Vice President; F. M. Bunting, Cashier.

Foppe Pioneer Store is contemplating turning the store into a Co-operative company.

Permission has been given by County Supervisor M. B. Smith for the town of Rock Valley to use the first lake west of town as a dumping ground. Refuse must

be dumped from the bridge into the water, and not left on the bridge.

Fred Relander is the new landlord of the Warren Hotel.

Contract was let for the erection of Electric Light plant.

A. L. Halstead of Kingsley, Iowa purchased the "Bee" from E. D. Brown.

N. P. McLean sports a new Buick touring car—a 22 horse power machine. This makes the 9th auto for Rock Valley.

Herman Hulshof, our jeweler's, gas lamp exploded.

John and Peter Hennick went to Sheldon with a string of racers.

The school building of the St. Mary's Parish is nearing completion. Father O'Reilly, Pastor.

The Rock Valley Telephone Company's new system will soon be ready for business. Within the past year this company has outgrown its office, switchboard and line capacity, being compelled last spring to move into its present quarters. Manager McKellar states that when the outside construction is completed the plant will be second to none in the northwest.

The first football game of the season was held Friday. Rock Valley defeated Ireton.

1908

D. A. McKellar has sold his interest in the telephone business here to the Sioux Telephone Company, a newly organized body consisting of some of the best business men in Rock Valley. The stock is all owned locally and the business will continue under its present management.

Nine car loads of stock were shipped from Rock Valley last week averaging about \$1,000 each.

McLean and Vugteveen, the implement dealers, have put in a cement walk in front of their new building which they recently erected near the Milwaukee depot.

F. Vander Stoup of Volga, S. D., purchased the Rock Valley

Creamery. He will take possession October 1st.

1909

The special election Monday for the issuance of 20,000 bonds for the erection of a new school house carried by a good majority.

The contract for the construction of the Christian Reformed Church was awarded Monday to Thomas Hellstern. His bid was \$9,150.

July 27, 1876 was the day that the grasshoppers visited this section and literally destroyed crops and every kind of vegetation found in their path.

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Greer arrived Tuesday and have taken charge of the photograph gallery which they recently bought.

Dr. F. J. Huizenga has purchased the Handy Hotel property and workmen have begun remodeling it suitable for a hospital.

The Rock Valley Hospital operated by Dr. P. J. Huizenga was opened November 6, 1909. A charity ball for the benefit of the hospital was held in Foppe Store dance hall November 9. Net proceeds were \$200.

The new Christian Reformed Church was dedicated November 11, 1909.

P. Wynia has bought N. P. McLean interest in the McLean and Vugteveen implement business.

1910

John McKellar sold his livery barn Friday to J. M. Collenbaugh of Doon who took possession at once.

F. D. McMackin has sold his racket store and business to Mrs. Emma Wright.

Sale of fair ground buildings—floral hall, hog shed, sheep shed and chicken house.

The new meters for the city water works arrived the latter part of last week and street Commissioner Shipman is busy putting them on at the different taps over town. With this system, people using city water will pay according to the amount used.

Rock Valley has been selected for the past three years as the

best place for holding the Merchant's picnic of Sioux County.

Rain spoiled the Merchant's picnic which was to have been held at Eurnisse's lake.

The Rock Valley Bee announced a piano, diamond ring, gold watch, and other prizes to be given away to the most popular ladies in Sioux and Lyon Counties.

School began Monday in the new school building.

First class lecture and lyceum course in Opera House.

Miss Elsie Schlund, surgical nurse of Cook County Hospital, returned as Supt. of Nurses at the Southern Infirmary at Mobile, Alabama.

E. S. Thayer has bought the Sioux Telephone system.

Mr. C. W. Jacobs has issued interesting pamphlets of his "touring party" experiences of abroad.

1911

One of the largest sales ever to be had in Rock Valley and vicinity was Miller's Poland China Hog Sale. Buyers from several states attended.

A great number of immigrants (about 400) from Holland arrived and will settle in and around Rock Valley.

J. M. Collenbaugh has a new Brush runabout which he is using in his livery business.

Dr. E. O. Plumbe, formerly of Rock Valley, is being heard from as he has spoken to several Chicago clubs on "Incidents of the Civil War as seen by an Army surgeon."

The pupils of St. Mary's music department gave a recital at the academy.

The Rock Valley Creamery was destroyed by fire.

Rock Valley takes on City airs and sports an up-to-date lighting system.

A city fountain has been erected in front of the State Bank.

The Foppe Store delivery team staged a lively runaway.

H. R. Shipman has taken up the old street lamps and stored them

away. The new lights are giving splendid satisfaction.

The fire company was called out Saturday by a fire in the coal bin in the basement of the school building.

John Stevens, for over twenty years a resident of Rock Valley and vicinity, died at his home in this city Monday, November 6th, at the age of ninety years.

The exhibit car of the Milwaukee Road was here Tuesday with exhibits of fruit, vegetables, and grain from the Dakotas, Montana, Idaho, and Washington.

Next Monday morning, November 20, the Postal Savings System, will open for business in the post office.

A basketball game between the Wouldbes and the Hasbeens was played in the basement of the high school building Thursday night. The score was 26 to 24 in favor of the Hasbeens.

St. Mary's Church was wired for electric lights this week.

Ted Handy is getting ready to start a restaurant in the building where Flynn and Braat had their saloon.

The postoffice will be open each evening next week until eight o'clock with the exception of Saturday evening.

1912

Last Thursday night broke all records of the winter and for many past for cold freezing weather. Local thermometers registered from 40 to 44 degrees below zero.

E. C. Suter and family are numbered among the residents of Rock Valley. They moved to town the first of the week.

The engine at the electric light plant is on a strike this week and as a result, the town is in darkness, but we hope to be able to see the light again soon.

Dick Vander Woude has started a cream station in the telephone office building. He is doing business for the Hanford Produce Company.

Buggy curtain, top trimming,

made while you wait and fit guaranteed at Dishlers.

The Rock Valley auto company gives their new prices on Ford cars. Touring cars are \$650.

Advertisement—will the party who borrowed my ladder some three weeks ago kindly return it. I want to use it. G. W. Kessler.

A number of friends of Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Scanlan formed a conspiracy against them and invaded their home last Friday evening the occasion being their twentieth wedding anniversary.

1913

Col. A. J. Warren died Monday, February 21, 1913 at the age of 84 years.

1915

W. B. Richter has sold his harness shop to Joe Peters of Sheldon.

Dr. F. J. Huizenga passed away as a result of an auto accident.

A committee was appointed from the Town and Country Club to investigate the possibility of having a sewerage system for Rock Valley.

Dr. R. Huizenga of Oak Park, Illinois, has taken over the office and practice of his late brother, Frank Huizenga. He has a wife and one son, Franklin.

Rock Valley had its first Municipal Christmas tree which proved to be a big success. It was grown and donated by Mr. James Walpole. An electric lighted "welcome" sign painted by Mr. Knorr added to the Christmas spirit.

1916

An automatic bookkeeper has been installed at the bank.

The Rock Valley electric light plant was sold to the Iowa Heat, Light and Power Company.

The first Sioux County Track meet was held at Rock Valley.

Rock Valley has its first free public library with the following officers and board members: Dr. F. L. Dixon, Dr. C. W. Renshaw, Mrs. M. S. Huie, Mrs. F. J. Huizenga, Mrs. Wayne Thayer, Thomas Helstern, Prof. Offringa and Prof. Prall. Dr. Dixon is the president.

Rock Valley had its third Chauqua which proved to be very successful drawing crowds from miles around.

The First National Bank sponsored an experiment with oiled pads.

W. C. Leonard sold a ten acre piece of land near M. De Blonks north of town, last Saturday, to Jessel Roorda, Sr. of Sioux Center for \$275 per acre without buildings.

R. R. Siemonsma sold his 300 acre farm northwest of Rock Valley this week to A. Bonthuis, the purchasing price being \$190 per acre.

Mr. Siemonsma bought the place five or six years ago at \$140 per acre trading in on it some North Dakota land. He has just bought a larger farm near Sioux

1917

M. Haupt has bought the Deenenburg residence property in the east part of town for \$9,000. This is a splendid piece of property, well located and there are twenty-one lots included.

1918

Mrs. F. L. Dixon has been appointed postmistress at Rock Valley for the ensuing term of four years.

At the council meeting on October 2, 1918, the following members were present: A. L. Hotelling, Mayor; G. H. Vugteveen, J. A. Huizenga, Thos. Helstern, C. W. Jacobs, and Z. D. Holmbeck, Councilmen.

Miss Josephine Sandschulte was appointed city weighmistress.

The Rock Valley schools were closed on account of the influenza epidemic.

1919

W. J. Siemonsma and Dick Vander Woude have leased the Gerla building recently occupied by Roelofs and Van Der Bok and will open a general store.

The Incorporated Town of Rock Valley adopted Ordinance No. 97, which created and established a sewer district in Rock

Valley.

The Rock Valley mill which has been conducted by the Rounds-Kettles Milling Co. for several years past has been taken over by about thirty farmers and business men of Rock Valley and vicinity the consideration being \$14,000. This did not include the elevator but the purchasers have an option on the elevator and have rented it for the present time. Mr. Rounds kept his interest in the mill, the interests bought being those of Mr. Kettles.

1920

J. A. Huizenga sold his residence property in Rock Valley to Wm. Bergsma, who will quit farming and move to town.

Joe McKellar received a challenge cup, a beautiful silver vessel lined with gold, as a premium for the best pen on Island Red chickens shown at Omaha this year.

Mr. McKellar also won first on his chickens last year.

J. Peroni's fruit store was broken into Thursday night and between \$75 and \$100 worth of goods was taken.

D. W. Elness sold his pool hall to Oscar Baumgartner.

The Iowa Light, Heat and Power Company will discontinue the practice of going from house to house to collect their light bills. The customers will call at the Consumer's Electrical Companies office and pay same.

The office is located in the front room of N. J. Greiner's Harness Shop.

The Rock Valley Shipping Association which started August 6, of this year with thirteen members now has over 80 members.

Dick Van Eldik Sr. was Manager.

1921

One of the worst and most spectacular fires Rock Valley has ever witnessed occurred Friday night when the Service Garage and Kersbergen and Sexton's Blacksmith shop were completely destroyed and other nearby buildings damaged. Firemen worked

hard to save block and they deserve a great deal of praise for their work. The loss in the garage including the building and stock was estimated at \$30,000.

The loss in the blacksmith shop was worth about \$3,000.

There were thirteen cars and one traffic truck in the garage. Those who lost cars which were stored in the garage were John Kersbergen, Delmer Hubbling, John Van Geest, two cars; H. Dahl, Ralph Hubbling, Harry Hacker, Ed De Bruin and Mrs. M. Doorn.

Peter McKellar, a former pioneer resident of Rock Valley died at the home of his son, D. A. McKellar in Minneapolis, Minnesota, at the age of 83 years. Mr. McKellar was engaged in the furniture business in Rock Valley for about six years.

Wm. Schouten and W. J. Simonsma sold "The Corner Store" to W. C. Kooiman of Ireton. Mr. Kooiman took possession the following week.

One of the most successful celebrations ever held in Rock Valley took place on Monday. Prizes were awarded for the following floats:

First prize—Farmers Lumber Company.

Second prize—Corner Cash Store.

Third prize—Home Bakery.

The house on the J. R. Benson farm, located a mile east of town was destroyed by fire. None of the household furniture was saved.

W. B. Hansen of Sioux City bought the Vande Brake Pharmacy, or Corner Drug Store, as it is commonly known. Mr. Hansen is a pleasing young man to meet and no doubt will make a success of the business.

H. J. Sandschulte and W. B. Richter have taken over the Ford agency and will handle Ford cars, trucks, tractors and Ford parts. They will be located in the new

Roorda building.

1922

On September 5 the voters of Rock Valley will be called upon to decide upon one of the most important questions that the town has taken in municipal affairs. On that day they will decide whether or not they want a municipal light and power plant.

The Holstein Fresian bull, King Korndyke, Sadie Vale Pieterje, returned to the Corwin Farms this week after a very successful show season. After winning first in his class, Senior and Grand Championship at the three state fairs in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota, and the Interstate Fair at Sioux City, he was taken to the Waterloo Dairy Congress where he won second place.

The Rock Valley booster committee with about twenty others from Rock Valley went to Canton Tuesday evening to attend a good roads meeting at which Col. Thatcher, father of the Columbia and Washington Highways, and a good roads enthusiast, was the principal speaker. It no doubt will be remembered that Col. Thatcher visited Rock Valley some three or four weeks ago, driving a team of mules across the country and speaking at towns where he stopped. He was looking up a route for the Washington Highway through this section of the country. Col. Thatcher came over from Canton to Rock Valley Wednesday morning and gave an address here. He plans to have the Washington Highway come through Rock Valley.

John Coert and the Hunting Elevator Company have bought the Betts elevator in Rock Valley. Mr. Coert will have charge of the business management of the three elevators, his own, the Hunting and the Betts.

The Northwestern Bell Telephone Company completed the

installation of their new three position switchboard last Friday. The new equipment was installed on the first floor of their exchange building. Mr. Woodward, local manager, has moved to the second floor, which has been fitted up for living quarters.

An enthusiastic mass meeting was held in the town hall Tuesday evening at which a large number were present. Those consisted of business men and residents of Rock Valley and farmers in this vicinity. It was good roads meeting and was called to make plans for graveling the road west of town for two miles, but it developed into more than that, for the north road west of the second bridge, known sometimes as the Richter road, was also considered and prospects look very bright for having it graveled also.

The plan is for the business men of the town and as many others as will help to furnish gravel and the farmers to furnish the teams and wagons for hauling the gravel. There will be no trouble about getting the gravel—there is plenty of it close at hand.

The work of graveling the road for two miles west of Rock Valley was begun Tuesday morning. The gravel which is being put on the road was bought from Henry Vander Weerd and the money to pay for it was donated by the business men of Rock Valley. The work of loading it and hauling it is being done by volunteers, and the farmers living near the road are furnishing the men, teams and wagons to do the hauling. There are from 16 to 18 teams at work and as many men to do the shoveling. From 130 to 150 loads a day are being placed on the road. At this rate the work will soon be finished.

This is a good work, and a fine spirit is shown in putting it across

and it should be continued until all the roads leading into Rock Valley are graveled.

The work of graveling the two miles west of Rock Valley was finished Monday p. m. after six days of voluntary work by the townsmen and farmers of this community. From 15 to 25 men and teams and as many more men to shovel appeared for work each day.

We believe that this is one of the greatest community improvements ever made in Rock Valley. There have been many improvements promoted and financed by the citizens of the town where more money was spent, but there was never more manifest than the results of this piece of work indicated.

Another item that should not be overlooked is the cost. The improvement just finished cost \$389.90. If the county had done the work, it would have cost \$2,000 at least calculations.

Milk at 9 cents a quart. John Bauman.

1923

To mill patrons: The mill will not do any more grinding for the next five weeks.

An electric fire alarm, which was ordered on a 30 days trial by the mayor and fire chief arrived Tuesday. If it is not satisfactory in every respect it can be returned at the end of the 30 days trial. A fire alarm is something that the town has needed for some time. Since the light plant closed last summer, the only fire alarm the town has had is the old fire bell, which hardly answers the purpose.

The work of graveling the road west from the 2nd bridge north of town was resumed Tuesday. From 18 to 20 teams are hauling and men are there to keep them loaded. The labor and money to carry on this work is contributed by residents and business men of

Rock Valley and farmers in the vicinity of the road which is being improved. The county gravel on the road east of town is also being pushed forward at a rapid rate.

"Rock Valley Business Man Dies Suddenly"

It was a great surprise and shock to the people of Rock Valley and vicinity when the sad news was passed around Sunday that T. E. McMurray had passed away.

"No, Hiway for Rock Valley," says Thatcher.

Geo. W. Kessler, the Rock Valley inventor, has invented a device that turns the lamps on his automobile whenever he turns the steering wheel of the car. The device works perfectly and is a great convenience in turning corners as it throws the light directly on the road as the car is making the turn in going around the corner instead of off to one side as the stationary lights do. It is also convenient when meeting other cars as the lights can be thrown away from the driver of the other car so that he can see clearly to pass. Mr. Kessler is applying for a patent. This is the third invention he has made.

1925

Miss Kathryn Mulder has sold her Millinery store in Rock Valley to Miss Eva Trebon.

J. Veldboom has sold his gasoline business in Rock Valley to Bert Van Maanen, who will take charge of the business the first part of December. Mr. Veldboom has been in business in Rock Valley for 36 years.

1926

The work of completing the inside of the new pumphouse has just been completed. An electric pumping outfit was installed some time ago.

Rock Valley debators (Marie Vande Weerd, Ambrose Higgins and Catherine Dixon) won the

championship of western Iowa.

A caravan of tourists from Detroit, Mich. composed of sixteen cars and forty-five people stopped at Rock Valley a short time Sunday afternoon. They were on their way to the coast. This is the first auto caravan to cross the United States.

They gave a short program here, singing the Iowa corn song and their own state song which were followed by a few talks. Rock Valley was congratulated on our fine gravel roads.

The fire alarm was turned in shortly after three o'clock Monday morning. The fire was in the roof of Joe Pieroni's fruit store building, and it had a good start when discovered by night watchman Korthals. The firemen were out in record time and did effective work in saving adjoining buildings, but the fruit store building was a wreck before they could put out the fire.

1928

E. J. Swier has contracted with the Dodge people in Sioux Falls to sell Dodge cars in this vicinity. He has conducted a repair shop in Rock Valley for many years.

1929

G. H. Vugteveen has sold his interest in the implement business to his partner John Wynia. Mr. Vugteveen has been engaged in this business in Rock Valley for over twenty years. He has made no future plans.

Wm. S. Bogart of Cedar Rapids became the new manager of the Orpheum Theatre in Rock Valley. Mr. Bogart has been in the theatre business for twenty years before coming to Rock Valley.

F. T. Mc Gill and H. E. Dennis were the two members recently elected to the school board.

The first series of talking pictures ever shown in Rock Valley were well patronized by the townspeople.

The worst hail storm that we ever had in this vicinity in the memory of the oldest residents was June 12, most of the windows on the north and west sides of buildings and glass fronts in stores were broken to pieces. The greatest damage was done to the growing crops in the surrounding territory. Oats, barley and alfalfa crops were practically ruined.

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Heisig observed their 50th wedding anniversary on September 10, 1929, by holding open house at their home to their friends.

Griener Bros. bought the Huie lots on the corner of Main Street and erected a super service station and machine shop there. This will be a fine improvement to the town. The building will be 50 x 130 feet with a full basement.

A deal was closed Saturday in which Ray Woolridge became the new owner of the Doon Rendering Works. The Woolridges will continue to live in Rock Valley.

1930

The Home Bakery will be conducted under the name of A. G. Vander Meer and Son. Mr. Vander Meer will take in his son Peter into partnership. They are planning to make some extensive improvements in the spring, making their bakery equal of any bakery in towns several times the size of Rock Valley.

G. Van't Hul, proprietor of the Valley Poultry Yards has installed a mammoth incubator one of 32,000 egg capacity size.

A Golf Club was organized in Rock Valley. The pasture north of the Rock River just across the second bridge was rented and will be fixed up for a golf link.

Bill Ver Mulm and Owen Manning have rigged up a nine hole miniature golf course in the dance room of Bill's Cafe.

Ted Bauman is building a filling station on the east corner of Mitchell Street where this street

intersects road 18. He is getting ready to supply the tourist trade with gasoline and oils.

A decided improvement is noticed in the appearance of many local women and girls in Rock Valley the past week. The improvement is attributed to the new Rock Valley Beauty Shop operated by Miss Irene Hensing.

Fire was discovered on Monday morning at five o'clock in Selmer Dahl's Cafe. The fire badly damaged the inside walls and the stock and fixtures are almost completely destroyed.

1931

John Mc. Keegan who lives northwest of Rock Valley was named one of the fifteen Iowans as Master Farmers for 1930. The Master Farmer awards are made each year by Wallace's Farmer and Iowa Homestead for outstanding achievements in farm management and community activity.

The Warren Hotel is now under the management of W. J. Romig. Mr. Eldridge, owner of the building intends to make some needed and modern improvements.

The trustees of Rock Township bought five acres of land from John Bajema to be used for cemetery purposes. The land was bought at \$220 per acre. It is located west across the road from the Valley View Cemetery.

There were 250 applications for the Superintendent's position in the Rock Valley school.

1932

Homer Jacobs has been elected vice president of the El Paso Texas National Bank. This is a considerable promotion for this former Rock Valley boy, who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Jacobs.

The Rock Valley Creamery Company under the capable management of John Dodeward and their exceptionally efficient

clerk, Miss Josephine Sand-
schulte, is making substantial in-
creases of butter shipments.

State Bank failed to open for
business Tuesday morning.

1934

The first crow hunt, which is
to be a permanent affair in the
future was held in this vicinity
Tuesday. A total of 185 crows
were killed.

1935

The Community library which
has occupied rooms at the public
school since its organization is
now located in new quarters in
the City Hall.

Ted Timmer has sold his barber
shop to Gerrit Van Serksun of
Doon, who will take possession
soon.

A mass meeting of citizens of
Rock Valley was held in the opera
house Tuesday to talk over plans
for building a new town hall for
use of public gatherings and en-
tertainments. The meeting was
well attended and the sentiment
expressed was strongly in favor
of such a building, but there was
some questions as to the manner
of financing the proposition.

Monday night was Rock Valley
night at the Sioux City ball park.
The Rock Valley band under the
direction of Wm. S. Bogaart was
scheduled to furnish the music
between acts and before the
games started which the band
did in a very creditable manner.

One of the newest businesses
to open in Rock Valley is the
Rock Valley Sales Co., which will
have its opening livestock sale
next Thursday, September 5.

Work on the construction of
the new bridges on Highway No.
18 west of Rock Valley was com-
pleted this week and the road
has been officially opened for
traffic.

Market Report

Hogs	7.00 to 8.70
Oats	20c to 21c

Corn	45c to 55c
Barley	42c to 46c
Butter	31c
Eggs	19c to 28c

1936

Blizzard—snowed hard from
the northeast on January 17.

On January 21st it snowed
again, and on January 22 it was
30 degrees below zero. On Janu-
ary 28 it snowed hard all day.
Roads were blocked. No traffic
on Highway 18 for days.

One of the Christian School
busses became stalled Wednesday
morning which was the coldest
weather we have had for many
winters. The children, nineteen
of them, were taken to a school
house about a quarter of a mile
away. Before arriving at the
schoolhouse many hands and
faces were frozen. Five were
brought to the doctor's office for
treatment. Thermometers regis-
tered from 16 to 20 below at the
time.

One of the coldest weeks yet.
Trains were late and coal bins
empty. Schools of Rock Valley
were closed all week on account
of cold weather and scarcity of
coal.

A number of water mains were
frozen. The PWA men are busy
shoveling snow off of streets this
week. Most of the time the work
has to be done over again because
of the wind and drifting snow.

H. J. Long received his com-
mission one day last week as post-
master in Rock Valley. He took
over his duties Wednesday, July
1st.

Saturday, July 4, the warmest
day within fifty-seven years ac-
cording to weather reports. A hot
wind began in the forenoon and
kept it up all afternoon and eve-
ning. Temperatures ranged from
112 to 117 degrees above and in
the shade at that!

William Richter, one of Sioux
County's pioneers died at the age
of 83 at the home of his son Wil-
liam in Rock Valley.

1937

Dr. B. Meerdink, who has been located at Craig, Iowa, is moving to Rock Valley and will establish a veterinary office here.

C. H. Schemmer purchased the hardware store from his father A. F. Schemmer.

E. C. Suter, former mayor of Rock Valley for many years, passed away at the age of 73.

Valley Refrigerated Locker Service plant held its opening day on Saturday. The plant is under the management and ownership of Wm. Rozeboom, Barney Bajema, G. Van't Hul, and C. Rozeboom.

Opening night of Rock Valley's lighted baseball diamond was held August 10 with the Lester and Alvord baseball teams playing before a crowd of about 1000.

1938

The report that Highway No. 18 from Rock Valley east to No. 75 is on the program for paving next year, is good news to everyone in this vicinity. It was the voters of Rock Valley and vicinity that put the bond issue over, making it possible for paving the primary roads of Sioux County.

The skating rink fixed up at the city park is proving very popular with the younger generation. The ice is flooded almost every morning and is always in good shape in the evening. It is well patronized each night.

The park committee is busy making improvements in the local park. A force of WPA men are busy fixing up the tennis courts, leveling the ball park, planting trees and doing whatever else they can find to make our park more beautiful. Beauty is the whole motto of the committee in getting the park into shape for a place of relaxation and enjoyment.

It is the desire of this committee to have trees of different varieties planted throughout the park and, of course, the funds being

limited, it is impossible for them to go as far as they would like to. For this reason it has been suggested that perhaps some of our citizens who appreciate beauty and a place to picnic, would be willing to donate one or more trees for the park. If you are one of these, see Fred Bauder or Arie Vander Meer, the committee.

W. S. Bogart, proprietor of the Orpheum Theatre, is making plans to remodel the interior of the building, as well as the front. Bill always has been a jump ahead of the rest in showing the latest and better pictures.

Rock Valley and vicinity are getting quite baseball minded. From one to two or three games are played each week. Our electrically lighted park is an attraction for many miles around.

They have quit pumping water and taking gravel from the swimming pool. Given a chance to fill, the pit should make an ideal swimming pool. A nice beach has been fixed up for the children and others who don't care for the deeper water.

Martin and John Keuning, formerly of Sioux Center, have moved to Rock Valley and will open a food store here. They will be located in a room at the Locker Plant Building and across the street from the Farmers Lumber Company. They plan their opening date for Saturday, July 9.

Headline—"Orpheum Theatre Re-opened Saturday"

Headline—"Second Annual Flower Show Will Be Held September 9" (sponsored by the Rock Valley Woman's Club).

The \$25,000 issue of school bonds of the Independent School District of Rock Valley were sold Monday evening at a special meeting of the school board called for that purpose. The successful bidder was Carleton D. Beh Company of Des Moines. The bid of this company was three per

cent. This is the lowest rate at which school bonds have been sold in Iowa for some months.

Woman's Club News Notes—Mrs. Manning of the civic committee reported that the proceeds of the community supper which was served by the Women's Club for the benefit of the tennis courts in the city park, sponsored by the Women's Club, was enough to pay for the entire indebtedness and leaving a small balance on hand which will be used for additional equipment and upkeep of the club.

Work has actually started on the new school building. The land was staked out last week and now those teams of mules, and as many men started Monday morning getting things ready for the foundation which will be put in this fall and allowed to settle during the winter.

J. A. Gartland has decided that it is about time for him to quit work and take life a little easier. He is going to retire after forty-three years in the jewelry business in Rock Valley.

1939

The first band meeting of the year will be held in the town hall this week, Thursday evening, and every band member or prospective band member is invited to attend. Harley Christophersen who has charge of the music in the public school has been employed to conduct the band. The school band will join in with the town band and that should help to boost the enrollment. The band will organize at this meeting and begin practicing in earnest with the next meeting.

A meeting of boosters for the baseball club, and for Rock Valley as well, was held in the town hall Monday evening. There was a good attendance and considerable oratory was developed. The question under consideration was whether or not we could afford to accept the offer of the WPA to

assist in building a new amphitheatre at the ball park. The WPA will donate a considerable part of the labor and costs of material. Things look quite favorable for the new improvement and committees were appointed to make further investigation.

Work on the new school building will be started again next Monday and will be rushed to completion as fast as possible. With the building of the new school and paving of Highway No. 18 there will be plenty of labor for all laborers.

It was definitely decided to go ahead with plans for a permanent grandstand in Rock Valley.

Rock Valley is to have more oiled streets again this summer. A letter from the company who is to do the work states they will be ready sometime this week. All previously oiled streets will be given a light coat of oil, and then the work on the unoled streets will be taken up.

They seem to be making good progress with the work on the new grandstand at the city park. The work will be finished some time this fall and be ready for use next year, if all goes well.

In order that a WPA grant may be had, some tax-levying body must be named as sponsors of the project and the town council has consented to be named as sponsors, but it is understood that the necessary funds will be raised by popular subscription. Everyone will be solicited regardless of whether they own a business or not.

A 1000 lb. bell was hung in the Methodist Church belfry Tuesday. It will have its first use on Easter morning.

Signs on Highway No. 18 on the south border of Rock Valley are indicating a coming event just as surely as the robins, meadowlarks, and blackbirds are indicating that Spring is surely here. Ted Bauman is hustling about in

house moving activities for a new location for his filling station. A. Yunker and other Rock Valley folks along the line are unbuilding fences and walls and it begins to look as if the paving, like spring, is really here. It won't be long now until Rock Valley people can travel on paving as far as they want to go, if they choose to go in the right direction.

The Rock Valley Rotary Club held their second dinner luncheon, since their organization, Monday in the Warren Hotel.

Another Federal grant was received the first of this week in the amount of \$5900 for the new school addition. This is the second grant received. The first was for \$14,750, which makes a grand total of \$20,650 received to date.

Who says Rock Valley isn't getting bigger and better every day! Look at all that has been accomplished just in this one year of 1939. A fine new school building; paved highway; ball games under the best lighted diamond in northwest Iowa which brings crowds that require special police to get traffic untangled and moving; fine, clean celebrations; flower shows; new residences; and now comes another honor. One of our local flower gardeners brings home a sweepstake prize on her gladiolas. This is the first time Mrs. Lee Schlecty has entered the Interstate Gladiola show which was held in Sioux City last week and perforce entered her glads in the small growers division where she won two firsts on her baskets of glads.

The school dedication was well attended.

Headline—"Rock Valley Day Was Huge Success"

1940

Red Buckley has done a nice job in fixing up his cafe so as to begin the new year just right. He has covered the floor with the best linoleum money can buy; he has installed new booths, and

they are very comfortable. Red believes in making improvements where such improvements appear necessary.

A. L. Halstead, publisher and editor of the BEE for thirty-three years, recently sold his newspaper to George Bowers who is also publisher and editor of the ALTON DEMOCRAT.

A railroad signal complete with flashing lights and warning bell, has just been completed at the depot Milwaukee crossing. The town council asked the railroad for a warning at this dangerous crossing twenty years ago.

The First Reformed Church will commemorate their fiftieth anniversary on Tuesday, November 19.

Workmen on the W. P. A. project at the baseball grounds recently completed erection of a concrete and steel grandstand. Estimated cost of the new grandstand is \$9,000.

1941

J. P. Schutt became president of the Valley State Bank after Herman Peelen of Sioux Center, president of the bank since its organization, sold his holdings to other stockholders of the bank and resigned as head of the institution. Mr. Peelen and Mr. Schutt are two of the original founders of the Valley State Bank.

C. H. Schemmer has completed tearing down one of the oldest landmarks of Rock Valley. This frame building was originally the Hollenbeck Hotel and was later used for a hospital. Mr. Schemmer plans to erect a plumbing shop of brick construction at this location.

The following advertisements were listed in the BEE.

Coffee—\$.23 a pound.

Corn Flakes—\$.19 for 2 large boxes.

Ring Bologna—\$.13 a pound.

Kindergarten in Rock Valley

for first time.

Supt. R. J. McNelly announced that beginning this fall a primary grade will be added to the grade school.

The Peace Lutheran Church will observe their Golden Jubilee anniversary this Sunday with special services.

The Christian Reformed Church will celebrate their Golden anniversary on September 17.

Van Aller and In't Veld, former Sioux Center hardware men, are well along with the big job of moving their hardware stock into the new John Coert building on Main Street.

The Rock Valley Sales Co. has purchased all of the office equipment of the Winterfeld hog buying business and will start buying hogs Monday at the same location as the Winterfeld's have used. Gerrit Harmelink and Al Bonthuis will operate the business with Al acting in the capacity of buyer and manager.

1942

Reverend Father McGoey was recently appointed as pastor of St. Mary's parish.

Although 73% of Rock Valley's businessmen seen by the committee were in favor of having a baseball team this summer, it was decided to abandon the enterprise this year because of other difficulties.

Five inches of rain caused a flood here. Rock River out of banks. Corn washed. Many basements filled with water.

Rubber scrap coming in by tons at Rock Valley. Golf balls, rubber boots, old canning rubbers, hot water bottles, rubber hose, rubber gloves, overshoes, besides tons of tire casings were brought in in a rubber salvage campaign.

All records for abundance of rainfall were broken the past June with over 18".

One 10,000 gallon car of oil will be all the town of Rock Val-

ley will be able to get for spreading on the streets this season, and it is possible it will have to do for the duration.

At the gladiolus show held in Sioux City Mrs. Lee Selecty won numerous awards. She had the champion spike in the amateur division and also took sweepstakes in the division.

C. H. Schemmer signed up to go to Alaska. Pete Timmer also signed up with Van Buskirk to work there. Harold Bonthuis, Charles Vander Stouw, Gerald Calsbeck, and Charles Wynia also expect to leave soon for Alaska.

Mrs. J. C. Wiggerman, resident here for fifty years, died at her home Monday after a lingering illness. Funeral services were held Thursday morning at St. Mary's Catholic Church with Rev. Father McGoey saying the funeral mass.

Mrs. Crowley, pioneer mother and resident of the Crowley farm for sixty-eight years, died at the age of eighty-three years. Funeral services were held October 13th at St. Mary's Church in Rock Valley.

First P. T. A. Organized in Rock Valley.

On Tuesday evening, October 27, a group of parents voted to organize a local unit and join the national congress of parents and teachers. Mrs. Al Bonthuis was elected the first president.

Funeral services were held at Canton, South Dakota, for Mrs. Cornelius (Nellie Hazlitt) Tuynman on November 22. Mrs. Tuynman was born on a farm seven miles west of Rock Valley in 1871 and has lived in this vicinity nearly all of her life.

Rock Valley came through its first blackout December 14 in fine shape.

1943

Rationing regulations and books were given out.

The average corn yield in 1942 was 61 bu. per acre.

Official corn sealing in 1942 will be 76c per bu.

Over one quarter million war bonds were purchased by the people in Rock Valley in January, 1943.

Creamery is Big Asset to Rock Valley.

It was learned at the annual meeting of the Rock Valley Creamery Monday that the production of butter in 1942 was increased by 32,000 pounds.

Marlene Vogelzang, eight year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Vogelzang, died Sunday as a result of a painful coasting accident she suffered when a weed went through her snowsuit and penetrated her abdomen.

Funeral services were held at the First Rformed Church for Albert Bunning, a farmer, living south of Doon who was accidentally shot as he climbed a fence while out hunting.

Melvin Smith passed away February, 1943. He was a resident of Rock Valley before the railroad was built through and was a member of the first school board as well as representing the district in the board of county supervisors for 14 years.

Ira Eldridge who came west by wagon trail passed away.

Many witnessed the dedication of the new service honor roll recently set up south of the post office.

John Coert sold his fine-grain property here to the Farmers Elevator Co. Due to ill health he was forced to quit the grain business which he had begun in 1920.

Supt. R. J. McNelly found the first few days of working on the section pretty tough on him. A job on the rail crew was open. He wasn't keeping anyone else out of a job and he wanted to do something of service to his country so he took it and managed to hold on until he got toughened up. The biggest compliment we

have heard came from one of the other members of the crew who said, "My, he is a nice man. You would never know he's well educated."

The Farmers Elevator completed the most successful year of its entire history last week doing a business of nearly two million dollars, and making a net gain of \$58,118.99.

1944

Heinie Stehrenberg, owner of the Fair Store has sold his business to Ralph Zwaan of Doon who will take over February 1, 1945.

The Tuynman farm brought \$103,000 per acre at auction. It is located about five miles west of Rock Valley.

Production of butter at the creamery went up to 50,000 lbs.

The Orpheum Theatre sold \$3375.00 worth of war bonds at a bond show in Rock Valley.

1945

W. C. Kooiman has bought the Bakery building of Vander Meer. Mr. Sam Ver Hoef will be manager of the Bakery which will open in the first part of April.

At a meeting of the school board Mr. E. R. Haas of Lester was selected to fill the position of Superintendent of the Rock Valley Public School for the ensuing year.

The Farmers Elevator made a profit of \$60,000 in their past year's business.

F. T. McGill, Ed De Smet and R. L. Thornburg purchased the Warren Hotel block. Plans are being made to move the Thornburg business to the basement of the hotel.

1946

The Rock Valley Bee is beginning its 62nd year.

School gets east street for extra playground space.

An ordinance granting the use of the above property was effective October 3, 1946. This will provide the public school with approximately 15,000 more square

feet of playground.

946 hogs were marketed at the Farmers' Elevator and brought \$61,000 on Tuesday, October 15.

At the Rock Valley Rotary Club meeting held this week, a vote was taken by the club to continue sponsoring the Scout troop.

Gerrit De Bruin and John Kragt, owners of the Kragt Furniture Company, held a grand opening on November 23, 1946 with a fine line of furniture on display. J. A. Vander Ploeg is making the store headquarters for his funeral parlors.

Ed Postma has bought the Rendering Service from Ray Woolridge.

Steve Faber, proprietor of the Rock Valley Furniture Store, moved into his newly remodeled building located second door east of the Corner Drug Store.

Emmet J. Murphy, former Rock Valley boy, is located in Washington D. C. He is director of public relations of the National Chiropractic Association, a son of Mrs. Mary E. Murphy of Rock Valley. He left Rock Valley for the east 25 years ago.

The Valley Male Chorus gave a sacred musical program to a large and appreciative audience at the high school auditorium.

1947

This issue of the Bee marks the first anniversary of the present publisher, Howard L. McCaughey.

Butter sales totaling \$648,502.89 which represents over a million pounds of butter was the amount of business done by the Rock Valley Creamery in 1946.

A recent count of Rock Valley's population of 1492 people. Fifty homes are occupied by only one person which is a cause of the housing shortage. Mr. Meylink, assessor, stated that by March first the population may reach 1509.

Miss Ann Ver Wey, local chief operator of the Northwestern Bell Telephone Co., observed her 21st year of service.

De Vries Jewelry celebrated its first anniversary of its opening in the Warren Building in Rock Valley.

Bert M. Leck purchased the Rock Valley Bee and will assume the role of editor and publisher on April 1, 1947.

Foppe Pioneer Store celebrated its 65th anniversary since founding. It has been operated here since 1882.

Plaques of Honor Roll were unveiled on the lot next to the Post Office at the unveiling services. F. T. McGill spoke briefly on the purpose of the plaques and the debt of gratitude owed those who had served their country.

A. W. (Tarzan) Bergsma has been named as the new manager of the Rock Valley Lumber Company.

Last week the ownership of the beauty shop known as Maxine's changed hands. Miss Eunice Johnston of Cleghorn, Iowa, is the new owner.

Burglars found little for their pains Tuesday night when they broke into the two east buildings of the Farmers Elevator. A total of fifty pennies was all that was found missing.

Funeral services were held Saturday for Mrs. Anna Oakland, 84 pioneer resident of Rock Valley and northwest Iowa.

Hessel Roorda, local implement dealer, is credited with having been one of the first, if not "the first," to apply the principle of rubber tires on tractors in this part of the midwest. It was back in 1921 that Hessel conceived the idea of putting a large truck wheel and tire on a Fordson tractor. By the early 30's a few of the large tractor manufacturers were putting out rubber tired equipment proving beyond a doubt

that the rubber tire gave more power and better service.

The Van Abbema Implement Company operated by Sam Van Abbema has been granted the franchise for Case farm implements and equipment.

Together "Uncle Charlie" Jacobs and H. W. Jacobs have served the Milwaukee Railroad here for sixty years. Charlie or C. W. Jacobs served here for forty-nine years as local depot agent and his nephew, H. W. Jacobs, continued after him for a period of at least eleven years.

1948

The Rock Valley town council has purchased a new rotary pump costing \$1900 with a capacity of 500 gallons for the community well. Although Rock Valley residents have always enjoyed not only what is generally conceded to be some of the best, if not the best, drinking water in northwest Iowa, they can now rest assured that they will, in addition, be relieved of any service worries for many years to come.

Charles Kooima is constructing a manufacturing plant at the south edge of town. The building is of all concrete and steel construction. Mr. Kooima will manufacture small auto parts in the new factory upon its completion.

The Valley State Bank published its regular financial statement this week for the year ending December 31, 1946. The bank showed over three million dollars in deposits.

The Van Abbema Implement Co. has been appointed as area agency for the Kaiser-Frazer line of automobiles.

Peter De Roon, forty, a farm operator, was killed here Tuesday afternoon when the west-bound "hot shot" fast freight train struck a loaded cattle truck which he was driving at the Main Street crossing.

Pete Timmer of Rock Valley

and Richard Sipma of Hull have teamed up and will operate an earth moving business in this area. Their operations will include the filling in of ditches, grading driveways and clearing and grubbing of farm lands.

After operating his own shop for a period of twenty-four years, John Landhuis has leased his barbebr shop to Sam Baker of Rock Rapids, Iowa.

Leverne Boer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Boer of Rock Valley, died Saturday afternoon while enroute to a Sioux City hospital. He had suffered a brain hemorrhage said to have been caused when he was struck by a baseball last Thursday.

Prospects for paving and storm sewers for the downtown section of Rock Valley were further advanced Monday night when the Town Council by a unanimous vote, adopted the resolution of necessity for the project.

The Town Council voted unanimously to accept the bid of Booth and Olson, Inc. of Sioux City, in the matter of the paving and storm sewer project. The bid totaled \$129,711.50.

An announcement was made this week that Rev. Hugo Beyer, pastor of the Peace Lutheran Church for the past twelve years has accepted a call to become pastor of the Lutheran Church in Woden, Iowa.

The residents of Rock Valley gave the IPS a rousing vote of confidence when they voted to give the company a new 25 year franchise to supply electric light and power to the town. Election was held November 9.

1949

The Town Council has approved the purchase of a motorized street grader.

The Rotary Club celebrated its 10th anniversary.

Two new bridges will be built just north of Rock Valley this

year. The contract calls for a total outlay of \$142,293 and will include two steel spans 20' wide with concrete abutments and decks. These two new structures will replace the existing 50 year old bridges.

Albert Van Beek of Volga, South Dakota, is the new manager of the creamery.

The Electric Service Company opened up in new modern building with Henry Landhuis as manager.

Rock Valley's new pavement is now open for automobile traffic. Contractors Booth and Olson of Sioux City began work on the project in the latter part of June.

The Home Dairy, a new locally owned and operated milk and milk products concern was opened on a partnership basis by Mr. John Dodeward and Miss Jo Sandschulte August 13.

The long awaited start on the paving of the eleven mile stretch between Rock Valley and Inwood on Highway 18 is slated for September 12 and residents of this area will be using the new slab by winter. The new pavement will be 22 feet wide. The entire width will be poured in one operation. If weather conditions are favorable they will be finished by late October or early November. The Western Contracting Corp. of Sioux City has the contract for the job.

Representative C. B. Hoeven congratulated the "Bee" on its 65th birthday. Throughout the years the Rock Valley Bee has made a valuable contribution to the welfare and the upbuilding of the Rock Valley community. It has done much to foster community improvements and has loyally supported worthwhile causes and projects.

Consider Possibility of Requesting Home and Store Mail Delivery Here.

The matter of establishing city

postal delivery in Rock Valley is now receiving considerable attention by various local interested people and may in consequence soon be the subject of a town-wide canvass. A letter received from Assistant Postmaster-General V. C. Burke, indicated if certain conditions are met it may be possible to secure such service here. In a letter he stipulated that in order to obtain postal delivery service, streets must be safe and passable, houses numbered and street signs be placed, mail receptacles or door slots must be provided and satisfactory walks to front entrance of dwellings.

1936934

The Rock Valley Bee started in 1884 under the direction of James R. Hurd, which was five years after the town had been plotted. Mr. Hurd brought in the first equipment for newspaper operation. Several persons served as publisher of the Bee during the past 65 years. The years between 1907 and 1940 are remembered as the period during which the Bee won its highest approbation from the community it served. It was in that space of time that the late A. L. Halsted established the Rock Valley newspaper as one of the most reliable weeklies in the state. Having published the Bee for more than half the years of his total existence, he gave the people of this area a newspaper to be proud of. Retiring in October, 1940, Mr. Halsted sold the Bee that year to Mr. George Bowers.

Eloise Miller to go to New Guinea as a Missionary.

Eloise Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Miller, was recently commissioned to serve as a foreign missionary. She will leave for her New Guinea assignment in October and will fly with another missionary from San Francisco. Her destination will be the mission of the Ameri-

can Lutheran Church. The mission serves close to 15,000 native Christians. Miss Miller will begin her work there by teaching the children of the missionaries.

Commercial Building Construction in Rock Valley Now at Highest Peak.

Rock Valley is this year experiencing its biggest boom in commercial construction. Recently completed were the Rozeboom and Moorlag building, the Electric Service Building, Valley Locker Service, Ver Mulm Garage, Herman Van't Hul Garage on Highway No. 18, Ray Berner Machine Shop, and Walt Warntjes garage and showplace also on Highway 18.

Funeral services for Charles A. Walhof, prominent lawyer here for the past forty-five years were held in the First Reformed Church.

The Commercial Club sponsored a "Free Pancake Day" which was attended by 2300 people.

1950

Rock Valley was assured of city wide postal delivery service, delivery to begin March 16. Street signs and house numbers were placed first. George De Boer and George Timmer were appointed mail carriers.

John Kragt has bought the store building owned by W. F. Balzer.

Deal completed involving sale of Foppe building to Hein Kosters.

Hans Moorlag has bought the Variety Store from Mace Klomp.

The Roelofs Store will hold an open house this Saturday, July 29, to show customers and friends the new improvements of self service. Dick and Harold Roelofs are the owners.

Kitchen equipment for a noon lunch program has arrived at the Public School and a balanced meal will be served from Monday to Friday.

Farmers' Elevator had open house at its new structure on Saturday, October 7. Employees of the elevator were on hand to explain the functions of the various equipment and just how the structure will be operated. Grain will be accepted for storage in two weeks. Close to 1000 people registered.

Two local merchants will have open house at their new location. They are the Home Furniture Store which is located in the building next door to the Home Meat Market and the Council Oak Store which has moved to its new larger store located on the east side of Main Street.

Addition of the new gymnasium at the Christian School was finished. It will be used during the day for various athletics and at night to garage the school buses.

Rock Valley Creamery Company is now operating in its new modern structure which is one of the most modern and sanitary plants in this part of Iowa. The new plant has a 40 x 80 ft. floor space. A new plate cooler and a 2000 gallon storage tank has now been added.

1951

Collenbaugh held open house at the garage. The occasion was the 37th anniversary in the automobile business in Rock Valley. Three generations—Jack, Paul, and John Paul were on hand to hold open house.

The Second Christian Reformed Church of Rock Valley was organized at a meeting on Monday evening, April 23. It was later named the Calvin Christian Reformed Church.

A new Ready-Mix Concrete plant is now in operation in Rock Valley by a partnership between Van Zee Bros. and Russel Vande Brake of Orange City. The new business is the only plant of its kind in this area. Water aggre-

gata and cement are thoroughly mixed while the truck is enroute to a job.

The Valley Studio will open in its new location Saturday in the Swier building with Bert Leck the new owner.

The Valley State Bank has installed a new vault door to safeguard the records and valuables of the bank and customers.

John Nebben, owner of the Orpheum Theatre here, announced that he had sold his business on Monday to "Walt" Weverstad of Centerville, South Dakota. Mr. Weverstad has been active in newspaper work and theatre operation in Centerville for some time. Mr. Nebben has not formulated any definite plans for the future.

Hans Moorlag, owner of the Variety Store here, announced this week that he had been granted a franchise by the Ben Franklin Stores merchandising chain and would convert to the new type of store the first of the year.

Introduction of dial telephone service in Rock Valley will begin on Monday, November 19. The change will be made one line at a time, according to W. A. Schar, manager here for the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company and will complete a telephone and improvement program costing about \$115,000.

All telephones in Rock Valley now are receiving dial service. The final lines were changed to dial on Thursday, December 6. With the change the crank type telephones have gone out of service. Mr. Warren A. Schar, manager of the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company announced that the change will complete a telephone and improvement program costing about \$115,000.

1952

The Rock Valley Rockets 54 to 51 win over Sioux Center Indians last Saturday night represented the second win over the Indians

this season and the first time in the history of the Sioux County tournament that a Rock Valley team has taken the title.

The Community Oil Company will mark 23 years of progress and the formal opening of its fine new building on Saturday, March 8. The new building measures 40 x 84 feet. In the last financial statement dated December 31, 1951, the co-operative showed assets of \$129,164.57 with total sales for last year amounting to \$275,486.62.

The many young people who have studied under the tutelage of Miss Mary Norris over the years will be disappointed to know that she has resigned as principal and English teacher.

The Rock Valley Bee changed hands this week when Bert M. Leck sold the newspaper to Pier D. Aldershof of Cedar Rapids.

The second floor of the Foppe Building is being remodeled for a roller skating rink to be operated in the near future.

Ed Swier sold his implement and garage business to Ring Wallenburg.

One of the old landmarks in Rock Valley disappeared from Main Street this week when the old building which formerly housed Mae's Dress and several other firms were torn down.

Polio Benefit Baseball Game at the Rock Valley Ball Park.

Work on the new Christian school classroom building has been progressing nicely. The new building was built to facilitate the overcrowded classrooms of the present building.

The community was saddened Friday when the news flashed through town that Dr. A. L. Lock had passed away. Dr. Lock came to Rock Valley October 20, 1914 to start his medical practice and he continued this practice for 38 years.

Rock Valley voters voted 288

to 19 in favor of granting the Iowa Public Service Co. a natural gas franchise.

1953

The congregation of Our Savior's Lutheran Church held a formal organizational meeting Sunday afternoon at which time deacons, trustees and officers were elected. Plans for building a church were discussed.

A change of local business was revealed this week when Ring Wallenburg announced that he had sold half interest in his implement and garage business to Mat Huisman.

One of Rock Valley's businessmen expanded this week. Tuesday Sam Van Voorst started to operate the so-called Wilson truck line from Sioux Falls to Spencer which covers sixteen towns.

Hessel Roorda has sold his International-Harvester Co. line of farm machinery to Bert Driesen.

The De Ruyter gas station has been taken over by Clarence Mulder. Mr. Mulder plans to run both the station and continue with his tank wagon service.

The winter's worst blizzard forced cancellation of train service and the star route mail carrier was also forced to abandon his route. At times vision was reduced to only a few feet. Country roads and main highways were blocked.

The Rock Valley Creamery Co. is going into the ice cream manufacturing business. Equipment has been installed and the name "Princess" has been selected for the name of the new product.

An air compressor blew up shortly after noon causing about \$3,000 worth of damage. Fortunately no one was injured by the blast.

Two well-known Rock Valley pioneers passed away Saturday and Sunday. John Tank died Saturday morning and George Van

Dyke passed away Sunday morning. Both men were in their eighties and had lived in Rock Valley for many years.

A ground breaking service Sunday morning was the first step in the construction of another new church building in the community. The service was held by Our Savior's Lutheran Congregation on the lots south of 20th Avenue. The building will be constructed of concrete blocks.

Walter Hynes, local manager of the Rock Valley district of the Iowa Public Service Co. passed away at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota on April 29.

John E. Vande Kerk, district supervisor of the Iowa Public Service Co. at Rock Valley has been named manager of the Rock Valley district effective May 18. He succeeds W. Hynes who died last month.

Funeral services for Miss Mary Quinlan, pioneer resident, and teacher in the rural schools near here for thirty years were held May 28 at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Fire which apparently broke out in the kitchen caused damage of approximately \$4,500 at the Clarence Miller home last week.

Two of the oldest business places in Rock Valley will exchange locations in the near future, both of which will leave their original quarters. Offices of the IPS Co. will vacate the old "Light Plant" to relocate in the Collenbaugh Garage building. Announcement was also made of the sale of the IPS present property to Collenbaugh who plans to convert the premises for operation of the automobile business.

Flash floods caused much damage and several days of delay of growing crops.

Dick and Harold Roelofs celebrated their tenth business anniversary here.

The Iowa Public Service open-

ed its new office and garage October 30.

Pier D. Aldershof, publisher of the Rock Valley Bee for the last year and a half, today announced the sale of the Bee to Paul Dean formerly of Brookings, South Dakota.

Tom McGill following in his father's footsteps, was elected mayor to take office in early 1954.

Cub scouting got a shot in the arm as Cub Scout troops were set up in the middle of November.

An early December storm nearly isolated this community since a major portion of the telephone and power lines were down. Crews worked 24 hour shifts to return things to normal.

Twenty-eight boys reported to help re-activate a Boy Scout Troop in Rock Valley.

Rock Valley showed the largest percentage of sales tax of any community in Iowa. An 18.4 increase was noted here.

Valley State Bank capital stock was raised to \$100,000 and an announcement that it was the largest bank in three counties surprised hardly anyone.

1954

Movement afoot to Erect Auditorium.

Rock Valley was included in the more than 70 towns slated to get natural gas as a result of the Power Commission in Washington authorization of the Northern Natural Gas Co. of Omaha to complete an expansion of its pipe line system. The Iowa Public Service Co. is the franchise agent for the gas company in this area.

New Rural Fire Truck Ordered as Collections Good.

Local firemen raised enough money in their drive for a new rural fire truck. A spokesman said it amounted to \$7,000. (Approx.).

A flat storage structure grain bin will be constructed here by the Farmers Elevator Co., to take care of expected needs this fall. It will be erected south of the elevator and will hold 109,000 bushels.

Dr. Lester R. Hegg, Rock Valley physician, was named man of the year here Wednesday night to climax the town's one day pioneer day. Hegg was the first man to be named to such an honor.

Early Rock Valley Families

Abraham J. Warren

My father, Abraham J. Warren, and my mother, Julia A. Warren, were both born in Ohio where they attended Oberlin College and were married.

They came West and lived on a farm near Waterloo, Iowa, for many years, then moved to the city of Waterloo where my sister Ellen and I were both born.

His business was always buying and selling land, and my mother would always say they were "land poor". The next move was coming West and arriving in Sioux County in 1875 where we lived one year on a farm. The next move was to Luverne, Minnesota where my father had quite extensive interests. We owned the farm land prior to the building of the Milwaukee Railroad on which the town of Rock Valley is now located.

He had a great deal of pride in the platting of the town, planting of the trees and building of the early day stores. For some time we lived over one of these stores, and as always, he built, rented, and sold stores and houses including the Warren Hotel. One of my earliest recollections as a youngster was before Rock Valley had a water system and the need of water to preserve the newly planted trees was so great—of seeing him in a horse-drawn wagon with barrels of water, watering each individual tree. During this period the building of business houses on the main street was going on. Sites without cost for the building of schools and churches were freely given, and I am told that the original locations are still in use.

My father passed away in 1913 at the age of 85 years, and my mother in 1918. Both are buried in the Rock Valley Cemetery, and

while I have not been in Rock Valley in recent years, I am informed that it has grown and developed with the community it serves.

Eloise Warren Schaller.

The Carter Family

by Lucia Carter Harper

In October, 1888, Charles Wesley Carter brought his family to live in Rock Valley. They had previously lived in Orange City where Mr. Carter had practiced law for 10 years, specializing in probate law. He had invested in land west of Rock Valley and moved there to develop it.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Carter took part in forwarding the interests of the town as a business center and in its social and educational development, giving much time and effort in public service.

Mr. Carter was the first Mayor of Rock Valley serving from January 16th 1889, to March 11th 1889. From the old records, he apparently engineered the incorporation of the town and took office until a Mayor could be elected at the regular election. He also served as a member of the town council in the years 1895, 1897, 1898, 1899, and 1900. Always interested in the welfare of the young people he was a member of the School Board for a time

Mr. Carter served as a member of the State Legislature from Sioux County for 2 terms, being a member of the 28th and 29th General Assemblies, 1900 and 1902.

In an early day he was one of a group of citizens who was interested in the Race Track which was located on the west side of Main St. at the north edge of town. Horse races were held there each summer for many years and drew big crowds from the surrounding territory. As a

hobby, Mr. Carter raised and trained horses for racing. This was an expensive hobby and one which his wife never approved.

Mr. Carter was one of a group of business men who decided that the Rock River was navigable, and they bought a steamboat which they called 'The Rock Valley', and which could carry about 50 passengers. On moonlight nights the families of these men drove to the river and had wonderful evenings riding up and down the river. Such rides were sometimes halted by a sandbar and the entire group had to be put ashore until the men could get the boat into deep water again.

Mr. Carter helped organize the Farmers Lumber Co. and the Rock Valley Fair Assn. whose grounds are now the lovely City Park at the southwest corner of town.

He helped to organize the Masonic Lodge in Rock Valley.

In 1889 and 1890, in partnership with Mr. Floyd Camobell he owned and operated the Rock Valley Grain Elevator.

About 1890 Mr. Carter and a partner Mr. Zeman bought the Lumber Yard across the street from the United Presbyterian Church. A few years later this yard was sold and Mr. Zeman moved to Estherville.

Mr. and Mrs. Carter were members of a Chautauqua Circle for six years. This was a reading circle of 10 to 12 couples which met every 2 weeks to discuss reading assignments. Each year's course covered 6 books of history, biography, or economics.

Mrs. Carter was active in the Women's Christian Temperance Union for many years and attended two of their national conventions, at Boston, Mass., and Chicago, Ill. She also organized a group of young men and young women into a society called 'The

Y' which was sponsored by the W. C. T. U. A great many of the young people of the town belonged, for in addition to temperance programs, it was a popular social group.

Mrs. Carter was instrumental in organizing Chapter BL of the P. E. O. Sisterhood in Rock Valley in 1898.

The Carters were very hospitable and many guests entered their friendly home. They tried to provide pleasure for their children and included their neighbors and friend's children. They had a tennis court in the summer and in the winter it was banked up for a skating rink.

Once about 1897 the two older daughters had a house party and nine girls from Alton and Orange City came to stay three days. The outstanding entertainment in their memories, today, came the last day when Mr. Carter chartered a Merry-Go-Round for a morning and all the children of the neighborhood and others who, hearing the music, came near, joined the house party and rode for two solid hours, free!

The Carter children all attended the public school in Rock Valley and Lucia and Hester graduated from the High School in 1902.

Two brothers of Mr. Carter, Elmer Carter and George Carter made their home with him for several years. Elmer engaged in the Real Estate business while there.

The Carters built a summer cottage on Lake Okoboji in 1897 and spent seventeen summers there.

In 1902 the family moved to Grinnell that the children might attend college. They lived in Grinnell until 1913 when they moved to Pasadena, California.

Mrs. Carter died in 1933 and Mr. Carter in 1934.

In 1911 Henry B. Carter, only son of the Carters, returned to

Rock Valley and in partnership with Mr. Freerks, bought the same Lumber Yard which his father had owned 20 years before.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Carter lived there and became a vital part of the community until 1917, when Henry sold his interest in the lumber yard and enlisted in the 20th Engineers of the U. S. Army, and served in the First World War. When he returned from the war the family moved to California.

Mr. and Mrs. Carter had six children; Lucia, Mrs. A. S. Harper, Oelwein, Iowa; Hester, Mrs. C. W. Pits, LeMars, Iowa; Henry, who died in 1950. His wife resides in Pasadena, Calif. Anna, Mrs. W. A. Wilkinson, Pasadena, Calif.; Edna Carter, Pasadena, Calif.; and Jessie, Mrs. E. D. Vasse, Altadena, Calif.

Today, 1955, there are 15 grand children and 19 great grand children.

Ed Rhodes

Edwin E. Rhodes, usually known as Ed Rhodes, was born on August 27, 1846, to Nancy Titus Simmons and John Fox Rhodes at Waterloo Township, Grant County, Wisconsin. He was their only child. His father was a hunter and a trapper and made three trips to California in the 1849 Gold Rush. The last trip, when Ed was just a small boy, he was killed by the Indians and was never heard from again.

Ed was raised in Grant County, Wisconsin, where he married Alice Handy. One daughter was born to them. Alice died when the baby was born. He then married Rosalie Totman, my grandmother. They had three children, Frankie, my mother, Jessie and Edwin, Jr. Jessie was the first white baby born in the locality now known as Rock Valley. She was born in 1879. Edwin, Jr. was born in Rock Valley in 1882.

Ed Rhodes had the pioneer Spirit. He decided to take his

wife and his two little daughters, Allie and Frankie, and his widowed mother, Nancy Rhodes Calvert, in a covered wagon to the new prairie country of Nebraska. He planted the fields. The grasshoppers came in droves and ate up his crop. He became discouraged and took his family back to Wisconsin. About 1877, he heard that a railroad was being built in western Iowa. He then took his family and mother to Iowa and settled in what is now Rock Valley.

He built a building here. He opened a general store in one half of it and he and his family lived in the other half. He was the first postmaster and merchant in Rock Valley. The town was then called Rhodes Corners, named after him. His store was where the State Bank is now. He lived here about seven or eight years. He then moved to Mitchell, South Dakota.

Some of the Handys owned a hotel called the Handy House on Main Street in Rock Valley. This Handy who owned the hotel was the father of Ed Rhodes' first wife.

Ed Rhodes' mother had married a man named John Calvert in Wisconsin. He was killed when his team ran away. Her name was Nancy Rhodes Calvert. She remained in Rock Valley for the rest of her life and is buried near the entrance gate of the Rock Valley Cemetery. She died in 1895 at the age of eighty-one years.

A year or so ago my cousin met Mrs. Eda Mc Kellar, who lives in Rock Valley, at an Eastern Star meeting in San Francisco, California. It was interesting to talk to her because she remembered the Rhodes family when they lived in Rock Valley.

Ed Rhodes later moved to Sioux City, Iowa, where he was in the wholesale produce business. He died there on Novem-

ber 9, 1899 at the age of fifty-three years. He is buried in Sioux City.

Ed Rhodes' three children, Frankie, my mother, who will be eighty-two in October is living in Kenton, Ohio. She is well and remembers many pleasant things about Rock Valley and her childhood days there. Aunt Jessie is seventy-six years old and is in fine health. She was here in Ohio visiting us in May. She lives in Pasadena, California; Edwin Rhodes, Jr. is now seventy-three and lives in Alameda, California.

Laurena Stewart (Granddaughter of Ed Rhodes)

James Griffin

Mr. James Griffin was born in Geneva, New York in 1860 and when he was twelve years old he and his parents and three sisters, Mrs. Alice Dearborn, Mrs. Sarah Bellisfield and Mrs. Annie Murphy, came as far as the railroad ran to Franklin County Iowa by train and then from there traveled by covered wagon on to Rock Township where his parents homesteaded the Southeast quarter of Section 36 in June, 1872 when the sod was first broken in Sioux County.

When they arrived here there were no towns around, the nearest town being LeMars. He saw the railroad laid to Rock Valley in 1879 and saw the city grow from its first building to that of the present. He recalled the flood of the spring of 1881 and loved to retell the incidents of long ago.

Mr. and Mrs Griffin were married on May 16, 1886 and in the Spring of 1893 they bought the farm two and one-half miles East and one mile South of Rock Valley where they lived until the spring of 1915 when they moved to Rock Valley. There were four children, Bertof Salem, South Dakota (now deceased), Esther (Mrs. Lester Benson), Mabel

(Mrs. James Van Der Poel) and Frank of Park Rapids, Minn.

Mr. Griffin passed away February 9, 1942 and Mrs. Griffin passed away June 4, 1942.

Mrs. Alvin Miller.

E. A. Loffswold

E. A. Loffswold came to Sioux County in 1873 and homesteaded on the northeast quarter of Sec. 4, Twp. 97, Range 46. He built a log cabin there in 1874. He was married to Melvina Loffswold at LeMars in the year of 1875 and they moved onto the homestead in that year where both of them lived until his death in 1915 and Mrs. Loffswolds death in 1945. They had a family of 12 children, all of whom lived to manhood or womanhood.

The farm homesteaded by Mr. Loffswold has never been out of the family and is now owned by Ogden Loffswold and his sister Ethel Mann and is occupied by Ogden Loffswold.

In the year 1879 a severe wind and hail storm destroyed all of the crops and Mr. and Mrs. Loffswold went back to Wisconsin where they spent the winter and returned to Iowa in the spring of 1880.

The Loffswolds have told their children of having to butcher their hogs in the year before the railroad came to Rock Valley and hauling the hogs to Pattersonville (now Hull) where they traded the hogs for groceries. In the transaction they were allowed 2½ cents per pound for the hogs.

Loffswolds endured all of the hardships of pioneer days but lived to see their family raised and the country develop from the prairie stage to a well settled community.

Ogden Loffswold.

Samuel Bellesfield

Peter Bellesfield and his wife, Elizabeth, and two sons, David and Samuel, and two daughters,

Emily and Alice, left Janesville, Wisconsin, in the Spring of 1868 by ox team for the west. They arrived in Sioux County, Iowa, at Calliope, the county seat, in August 1868.

There were forty acres of land on the Rock River that were still open for homesteading about five miles southwest of where Rock Valley is now located. About two weeks after they had filed on the land and located on it, Peter Bellesfield took sick and passed away, but the family stayed there and the mother proved up on the land and received the land patent from the Government.

As there were no bridges in those days, David and Samuel built a ferry boat, which they operated for a number of years. During the low stages of the river, there was a place where the river could be forded, this was known as the "Bellesfield Ford" for miles around. Their home also got to be known as the "Bellesfield Halfway House". People traveling through the country would stop there for meals and lodging.

David Bellesfield was an early day land surveyor. Samuel Bellesfield operated a star mail and stage route between LeMars, Iowa and Luverne, Minnesota. Samuel Bellesfield also operated many types of threshing machines in what is now the Rock Valley vicinity.

In December of 1880, Samuel Bellesfield moved into Rock Valley and into a house which he built on Lot 8 of Block 11, of the original town of Rock Valley. Here in Rock Valley, he started a house-moving business and was widely known as the "Pioneer House Mover." He operated this business until late in 1916, when he was forced to retire on account of ill health. In March of 1917, he passed away.

W. D. Bellesfield.

The Dearborn History

In 1867 a covered wagon caravan started out from Janesville, Wisconsin for Iowa to secure homesteads for their families. Of this caravan the Bellesfield family was a part. Their grandson and nephew, Nelson Dearborn, then ten years old was given the duty of herding the cattle across the prairies, as they came. Many adventures were met with as they journeyed. They got as far as Sioux City and stayed there through the winter of 67 and 68. They started on again and arrived here in the spring of 1868 with a few household belongings and their cattle.

Their homestead had been granted from the Sioux City office and was just east of the Rock River, the farm recently occupied by the Chris Ranschau family. Here they built a log cabin and afterwards built a frame house which was used as an inn. Many pioneers on their way across the country stopped with the Bellesfields. Samuel Bellesfield drove the mail stage from LeMars to Luverne, Minnesota and passengers often made the trip on the stage to reach points farther north. They built a spring house on the Rock River where they kept cream, butter and eggs. The Indians often crossed the homestead but they never had any trouble with the Indian people. A commonly used ford was on their place. David and Samuel were the boys in the family, Emily, Alice and Mary, the girls.

L. H. Nelson Dearborn herded cattle for the neighbors who later settled on homesteads. Among these were the Hasletts and Kaskeys.

He married Mary Alice Griffin April 22, 1886 and went to live on the farm on which Ted Vogelzang now lives.

The James and Mary Ann Griffin family had come here in June

1872 to a homestead southeast of Rock Valley. Anne, Mrs. W. I. Murphy, came here with her uncle and aunt, John and Elizabeth Hill Langford in 1870. Mrs. Sarah Bellesfield came here in 1871 in the fall of the year. She grew to womanhood here and worked at the Bellesfield's Wayside Inn before marrying Samuel Bellesfield March 29, 1874. James and Alice accompanied their parents here.

The Sam Bellesfield family lived on the old Bellesfield homestead until December, 1880 when they moved to their home they had erected in Rock Valley and there they reared their children, Effie, Millie, C. Brown, Ruie Ann, Cynthia, Amy and Wilmer. In the spring of 1881 they witnessed the old mill go down the river by flood. They have many times related how on January 12, 1888 clouds arose out of the west which looked like the wildest tornado clouds but proved to be the worst blizzard to ever sweep this section of the country. They placed heavy articles of furniture against the door to keep it from blowing in. Sam Bellesfield retired from the threshing business to move houses. Among the buildings he moved were hotels and an elevator, even taking an elevator across the Sioux River from Elm Springs to Fairview.

For many years there were no houses between the Bellesfield home to the home now occupied by th Dearborn sisters and then none until the corner across the street west.

One of the sensational happenings was the 1897 flood of March 17. In this, several homes on an island were surrounded by water and being flooded and Nels Dearborn took a row boat and in four trips secured the people from the Swartz house.

Mr. Dearborn was employed in the mill. Afterwards he worked

in the railroad pump house for some time. After this he was engineer in the mill for Roantree and Rounds for many years. Later he was chief engineer for the Rock Valley Electric plant operated by E. S. Thayer and sons, Starr and Wayne. He worked there until diesel engines were put in by the Iowa Public Service Company. He returned to his threshing work and afterwards purchased a house moving rig which he operated until November 19, 1923. He had to undergo two operations and passed away December 20, 1923.

Nelson Dearborn served as constable for several terms and one of the hardest things he had to do was to stand off, with a few deputized citizens, a mob which had come to mob a negro, who had struck a negro on the Benson farm east of town. Once he was called to go on a murder case and also to take some of his friends, who had gone insane, over to the sheriff.

Mrs. Dearborn had assisted in many homes before and after marriage. She baked bread for a number of unmarried settlers, among them the Walpole and Schweppe brothers. She also baked test loaves of bread for the mill after they had milled a new kind of flour.

She passed away early on the morning of Nov. 8, 1954 at the age of 88 years.

Gordon lives in Council Bluffs where he is employed by the Pittsburgh Paint and Glass company, Ivor lives in Rock Valley, Hazel, Mrs. May Loftus, Lelia and Elsie live in the old home.

Edward Quinlan Family By James E. Quinlan

Edward Quinlan was born in Ireland and came as a child to Shellsburg, Wisconsin, where he grew to manhood. As a young man he made several trips to California and also went to Brit-

ish Columbia and worked in the mines in Montana and later in Canada.

He came to Sioux County in the year 1869 and settled on a tract of land three miles east and 1 mile south of Rock Valley. He was married in 1873 and he and his wife lived on the farm until his death on June 25, 1910. Mrs. Quinlan and her two children, James and Mary, then moved to Rock Valley where Mrs. Quinlan lived until her death in 1937. Four children, all of whom were born on the home farm survived them. The children were: James, who still lives in Rock Valley; Tom living at Worthing, South Dakota; Mary who taught rural schools in Sioux County for many years and is now deceased; and Mrs. Isabelle Crannell who is now deceased.

The following interesting story about the Quinlan's early life was printed some years ago:

"In the winter of 1873-74, Edward Quinlan of Rock Township and his betrothed went to Sioux City to be married. With them was a girl friend, a Miss Buckley, who later married P. C. Sullivan of Rock Valley. When the party left home the weather was beautiful and they had no thought of a snowstorm. When the party returned a big blizzard struck them and the roads were soon drifted in and effaced. Mr. Quinlan took what he thought was the right direction, but landed at the Floyd river near LeMars, and the whole equipage fell off the bank into the bed of the stream in the soft snow, as the river was frozen solid. Mr. Quinlan was resourceful, and as he had a shovel with him, he hastily scooped out a place and with the wagon box, blankets and robes, rigged up a sort of shelter, which was soon drifted in, but which they were fairly comfortable and stayed for two days and nights. On the following

day, when the storm died down a little, he went forth to look for the horses, which he found in a clump of willows close by. As soon as they thought it safe, they broke camp and when out of the river they saw a house not a hundred rods away, which they had narrowly missed before falling into the river. When they stopped at the house to take note of their condition, they found that they were a little frost nipped in places, but otherwise unhurt. All they had to eat was some candy. The following day they left for their homestead, and rejoiced and shivered by turns when they told their friends of their narrow escape."

August Klein Family

August Klein was born in Germany and came to this country when he was 14 years old. His wife Lucretia Birum Klein was born in Baraboo, Wisconsin soon after her people came to the United States from Norway. They were married in Baraboo on March 21, 1865. To this union nine children were born. Only three survive—Mrs. Frank Grisdale of Red Deer, Alberta, Canada; Carl Klein of Sacramento, California, and Mrs. James Thomas of Rock Valley, Iowa.

In the early spring of 1868 August Klein and his brother Adolph decided to go to Montana expecting to mine gold. Hundreds of people migrated to that state hearing of the fabulous wealth taken from the gold mines, but in September the Kleins decided to return to Wisconsin each having \$600.00 for their summers work. On the way back they stopped in Sioux City. The rolling fertile prairie attracted them and they decided to cast their lot in Iowa. In Sioux City they met Col. A. J. Warren and a friendship developed which lasted throughout their lives. The two Klein men and Mr. Warren hired

a team and surveyor and started north. They took claims in Lyon County.

After digging a cellar, they went back to Sioux City and bought two windows, a door, and flooring, came back and built the house—a one room cabin with a sod roof. They chopped down the logs from the Rock River trees. At that time it was the only floor in Lyon County. They returned to Wisconsin to spend the winter and prepare for the trip to Iowa, in the spring, which they made with two covered wagons drawn by ox teams. Mrs. Klein often reminisced and would always say "After all we enjoyed the trip." They brought 3 cows, 4 pigs, and about 40 hens which supplied them with eggs, butter and milk. They brought provisions two barrels of salt pork—the only meat they would have besides chickens.

Few of the first pioneers stayed to brave storms in winter and grasshoppers in the summer but it never occurred to the Klein family to give up. The first year Mr. Klein drove to Sioux City five times with an ox team, a distance of 75 miles, for the mail. The second year LeMars was started so they bought a team and would market their crop in LeMars.

The second summer they added a second room to the log cabin and the 4th year they took off the sod roof and added an upstairs with a shingled roof, and the 8th year they built the house which Bill Barry now lives in. They were fortunate for in a few years a fine class of cultured people moved in. The friendship of these people lasted through the years—always sharing each others sorrows and burdens. Most of these people were able to send their children to college. Belle the eldest of the Klein family graduated in Augustana College

at Beloit (now Canton. S. D.) in 1883. In March of 1889 the Klein family moved to Rock Valley and built the house where P. Tuynman now lives. It was a hospitable, happy home and at that time the largest house in Rock Valley. Mr. Klein bought an interest in the Rock Valley flour mill and was president of same until his death. The mill was situated on the Rock River just west of Rock Valley, the waters of the Rock River furnishing the power for the mill. Later the dam washed out and the building was moved to town and is now used for the Dykstra hatchery.

August Klein was a Civil War veteran and received a commission as Lieutenant. He was wounded in the battle of Gettysburg and never fully recovered from the effects of the wound. He passed away of a heart attack in Sioux Falls while there on a business trip on March 24, 1895. Mrs. Klein then moved to Grinnell where Amy and Carl attended college. After their college days were over she moved to Canada, Carl having invested in land there. In 1918 she was going to California for the winter, stopping at Grants Pass, Oregon to visit her brother. While there she suffered a stroke and passed away January 18, 1918.

No one ever heard either Mr. or Mrs. Klein complain of any hardship nor did they think their life had been hard. They felt the compensation was worth it all. Mrs. Klein said one time "We might have thought some times that things were hard, but looking back, it was the happiest time of our life."

Pardon this from a daughter, "I think they were thorough-breds."

Lottie Klein Thomas.

Chas. Klein Family

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. (Karl) Klein and their eldest children came

from Wisconsin in 1870 and settled in Sioux County on a farm 3 miles east and 1 mile north of Rock Valley where they erected a sod hut as temporary living quarters. Later they cut logs along the Rock and Sioux rivers from which they built a log cabin. They were both born in Germany—Mr. Klein in 1844 and his wife Maria in 1842.

One of their six children, William F., is living at Elkton, S. Dak., the other five were Henry C., Ernest F., Fred H., Mrs. Lena Schroeder and Mrs. Mary Nester.

When the streets in Rock Valley were laid out Mr. Klein was one of the men who helped because he could plow so straight. He used a team of oxen and a breaking plow with a wooden beam which he had brought with him from Wisconsin.

Mrs. Klein died in 1907 and Mr. Klein on Sept. 30, 1924.

Arthur and Loyd Klein

William Richter Family

Among the early settlers in this community were Mr. and Mrs. William F. Richter who came here as newlyweds in 1879. They were accompanied by Mrs. Richter's father, mother and brother and first lived in a log cabin 2 miles west and 1 mile north of Rock Valley where their eldest children were born. After three years they purchased the farm which was their home until they moved to Rock Valley in 1918.

They were one of the 13 families which formed the nucleus of St. Mary's Catholic Parish in 1881. Prior to that time they had attended church in LeMars, making the trip about once a month in a lumber wagon, going on Saturday afternoon and returning on Sunday.

1879 was the last year that the grasshoppers came in hordes and took all the crops. After the crops were destroyed that year Mr. Richter, having a team, went to

work for the Milwaukee Railroad helping to grade the roadbed for the railroad which was put through that year.

In 1881 these pioneers saw the highest flood that the Rock River has ever had—it being two miles wide and extending from Main Street in Rock Valley to two miles west. It had snowed early that year on October 17 after which the weather turned bitterly cold and the accumulation of snow never left until on April 15 when a warm rain fell, melting all the winters snow and causing the great flood.

These hearty pioneers also worried through the blizzard of 1888 when their eldest daughter (now Mrs. A. F. Schemmer) was marooned in the school house 3 mi. west and 1 north with the teacher of that school, Mrs. W. C. Leonard, and her brother Will Renshaw who taught the school just north. They had no lights and no means of communication with the outside world. The following morning Mr. C. W. Renshaw, father of the two teachers, stopped for his neighbor Mr. Richter and together they started walking to the school house for their children. Upon reaching the top of a hill they could see smoke coming from the schoolhouse chimney and realized all were safe.

Mrs. Richter died in 1926 and Mr. Richter in 1936.

Mrs. A. F. Schemmer.

H. M. Corwin History

Isaac Tracy Corwin, a direct descendant of Joshua Corwin of New York State, of American Revolutionary times, married Sarah Jane Davis in Illinois in 1853, and moved to land purchased in Blackhawk County, Iowa in the spring of 1854. Their five children, Howard, Ella, Elmer, Fred, and Nettie, were born there.

In 1881 the family moved to

land purchased north of Rock Valley, and a home was established there and the family entered into the activities and development of the community.

Isaac Tracy Corwin died in April, 1898, and his wife, Sarah Jane, in June, 1927. After their marriages, only the eldest of the five children, Howard M., remained in that community, and most of his later years were spent in the home of his son near Rock Valley.

Howard M., the eldest, who was twenty-five years of age when the family came to the Rock Valley vicinity, had a large flock of sheep which he herded over the prairie from the family home north of Rock Valley to near Inwood.

He married Cassie Foster of Sioux Falls, South Dakota in 1885, and soon after purchased land adjoining his father's to the northeast and established a home where seven children were born and raised to adulthood. However, none of the children now live in the vicinity.

Howard M. Corwin was widely known as a farmer and livestock man. He was a staunch supporter of community activities. He helped organize and was a Board member of the very good Rock Valley District Fair and Racing Meet held in the early 1900s and was President of the Farmers' Lumber Company, a member of the Methodist Church, and an almost continual director of the Church Board. He died in 1950 shortly after his 94th birthday. His wife, Cassie Foster Corwin resided in Rock Valley until the fall of 1951 when she went to make her home with daughters in Baltimore. She passed away there in February of 1953, having just passed 90 years of age, and was interred in the Valley View Cemetery at Rock Valley.

Since none of the descendants

of Isaac Tracy Corwin live in the vicinity now, the Corwin family's residence in the Rock Valley community since 1881 came to an end after seventy years.

Hans Moeller

Hans Moeller was born in Schleswig, Holstien, Germany, on the 17th day of February, 1854. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Faith. I do not have the exact date but it was in the 1880s that father came to America and worked as a laborer in Marshalltown and Davenport, Iowa. Within a few years, his father and mother, brother, Jacob and wife, brother, Martin Moeller, and his sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Cordsen, came to America and landed at Ireton, Iowa.

In about the year of 1887, father gained ownership to the farm known as the S. W. ¼ of Sec. 28, Plato Twp. seven miles south of Rock Valley. He built a house and barn on it and in the fall of 1887, father went back to Germany, where he married and he and his wife together with her father came back to America and settled on their farm stead.

After settling with other Lutherans in this community, a need for a Lutheran Church was evident, so father donated two acres of his farm land to the congregation for church purpose only. A church and parsonage were then built and the church is now known as the Peace Lutheran Church, Sioux Center, Iowa.

The next development for community interest was the necessity of a Farmers Mutual Insurance Company. Father and his farmer friends together organized the German Farmers Mutual Insurance Association of Sioux, Plymouth and Lyon Counties. Father had an active interest in the association and served as its secretary for twenty-six years. The purpose of the Mutual In-

insurance Association was to insure the farmers against property loss or damage from fire and lightning for cost. This insurance association is now known to be one of the largest County Mutual Insurance Companies of the state of Iowa and also is among the low in operating cost in the State of Iowa.

In thinking back to some of my boyhood days, I can remember when I became old enough to drive a team of horses, the farmers got together and hauled barley to Rock Valley where they ordered a rail-road grain car and shoveled the barley into the car with scoop shovels. There were already three grain elevators in Rock Valley to buy grain at their own price. I understand that the farmers were well paid for shoveling the grain into the box cars. Later father and his farmer friends organized a Farmers Elevator Company at Rock Valley. This organization bought and sold grain, feed and livestock to the farmers. After the Farmers Elevator Company was functioning, the Farmers Lumber Company and Farmers Creamery Company were organized. Father served as president of these farmer co-operatives for some time.

He also became instrumental and active in starting the Farmers Co-op Elevator at Sioux Center, Iowa which was started by a group of farmers of the Sioux Center community. He acted as president of this company for a number of years and helped to organize the Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, the Farmers Co-op Creamery and Oil Company in Sioux Center.

Father did not work for the best interests of his community alone. He also gained state wide recognition by attending the farmers' grain dealers meetings. In 1909, in Sioux City, Iowa, he and a group of farmers organized

the Farmers Elevator Mutual Fire and Extended Coverage Insurance Company of Iowa. This company was started to lower the insurance rate from \$30.00 per \$1000 risk to \$10.00 and to give coverage protection from 50% per coverage risk to 80% to all Farmers Co-op Companies and Farmers companies of Iowa. This insurance company of which I happen to be president has given very useful and profitable service to our farmers companies of Iowa and has now grown to include business in seven states.

In Plato Township, father also served as trustee, town clerk, and constable. He also served as Vice-President of the First National Bank of Rock Valley.

Father's theory in mutual insurance was to collect a small amount from the many to pay the losses to the few, and in the farmers co-operative movement was to do the most for the many.

His first wife died six years after their marriage. He later remarried and during his married life became the father of twelve children. He died in January, 1926, but the mutual companies he helped organize are still going strong.

William P. Moeller.

Frederick Gayer Family

In the spring of 1888 or 1889, Frederick Gayer and his wife, Johanna, and three sons, Charles, Gottlob, Fred, and three daughters, Fredrika, Marie and Annie, arrived in LeMars, Iowa, from Germany. He left two married daughters, Hannah, Mrs. Pfeigler, and Louise, Mrs. Seeger, in Germany.

Soon after he arrived in LeMars, he bought land in Plato Township and started building a farm stead on the S. E. 1/2 of Sec. 18, Plato Township 96-46.

All of the children are now dead, but there are grand-children, great grand-children, and

great, great, grand-children in Rock Valley vicinity.

The three sons, Charles, Gotlob and Fred, all now dead, lived south of Rock Valley. The daughters married as follows: Fredrika, better known as Rika, married Louis Miller; Annie married Fred Klein and both of these have children in the Rock Valley vicinity; Marie married Robert Callies and settled in Kossuth County, Iowa, and has some children living there.

Frederick Gayer died in 1900, and his wife, Johanna, died in 1922. Both are buried in Peace Lutheran Cemetery, seven miles south of Rock Valley.

William Gayer.

The Millers

Early in 1880 Alex and Lou Miller came from Elgin, Iowa, to Plymouth County, where they worked in breaking the prairie near Remsen. Later in the year, when they needed an extra "Hand" because of the fact that they wished to use three mule-drawn plows to "back set" the prairie, their twelve-year-old brother, Fred, came to join them. When the older brothers returned to Elgin for the winter months, Fred remained at Remsen to care for the mules; the experiences of this young lad that winter included living with strangers, who improvised a bedroom for him in their attic which was anything but "snow-proof," and attending the first school in Remsen.

The fact that Alex married in 1882 and brought his bride with him to Remsen provided the first real home for the three brothers in the West. In 1884 their brothers, Rude and John, came to join them and—after exploring and inquiring of other pioneers as to possibilities of suitable land to purchase in Sioux County—decided to settle along Dry Creek, about eight miles southwest of Rock Valley; the distance in

those days actually less than eight miles, for the wagon trails cut diagonally across the prairie, which was as yet very sparsely populated, as indicated by the fact that there were only two or three cattle-herders' shacks for miles around the Millers' farm.

All of the brothers made their home with the Alex Millers in a house later to be used as a granary and constructed from lumber hauled from LeMars by horses and mules, on a trail leading to Sioux Falls and passing through their land. The young men worked together in breaking the prairie and farming a considerable area; one by one, Alex's brothers married and established homes, also, on this land. At about the same time their sister Lydia and her husband, Alex Yunker, came from Elgin and settled in the same neighborhood.

Since the nearest school available for Fred A. Miller, Alex's oldest son, stood on the site now utilized by Plato Township, District No. 4, the boy reached the school by riding a horse to his Uncle John's farm and walking the remaining one and one-fourth miles. Fred recalls that one day his horse stumbled and fell, throwing him off, and the horse's return home without him prompted a search for him, after some time one of the searchers spied a waving line in the tall slough grass and found the lost boy.

Although the first years were rugged, the Millers along with fellow pioneers surmounted their difficulties and made farming here a successful venture. Among the accomplishments of this particular family we recall John Miller's reputation as a breeder of thoroughbred Poland China hogs, which were shipped to all sections of the United States.

The Miller descendants take pride, also, in the fact that the

year 1955 finds all of the original six farms owned, and with one exception operated, by children and grandchildren of the Millers.

Hilda Miller

John B. Foppe

"Mr. Foppe was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, September 15, 1850, and was sixty-four years old at the time of his death.

At an early age he went with his parents to Millhousen, Indiana, where he grew to manhood. When a young man, he went to Lawrenceburg, Tenn., where, for a few years, he clerked in a dry goods store. This was the beginning of his mercantile career, which closed with him at the head of the large department store which he has helped to make one of the best of it's kind. Later he went to Loretta, Tenn., where he was united in marriage to Miss Kate Sandschulte. They lived there ten years and then came to Rock Valley which has been their home since.

When Mr. Foppe came to Rock Valley, he started a store and continued in that business for over 32 years. The town was then in it's infancy being scarcely known beyond the borders of the county. As the town grew, Mr. Foppe's business and influence grew with it.

He was a man highly respected by all who knew him. He was of a generous and cheerful disposition and always ready to lend a helping hand to any movement for the betterment of his fellow men. Although he is gone from among us he will be long remembered and his influence will be felt for many years to come."

To which we add this, taken from an old "history" of Rock Valley, furnished by another old pioneer (Mrs. E. A. Lofswold, who came here before the Indians left). She says "Many a time we have traded pork to the Indians for venison and have fed Jesse

James and his gang, when they roamed these regions. E. Rhodes was the first merchant, the next was E. L. Rowe, in 1881. Rowe was on the corner now occupied by the Corner Drug Store. J. B. Foppe opened a general store in March 1882 and has continued in business ever since. Rhodes sold in 1880 to A. L. Burnell, who in turn sold to Henry Durland. Cummings and Sheridan and H. H. Case were also pioneer merchants of the 80's"

We further add the following. Mr. Foppe's first store was located in a wooden building where Mr. Pember's Drug store now stands, next in a building where the Home Meat Market now stands, then across the street to building now occupied by Post Office, or very near there, then to the "Pardon" building now occupied by W. C. Kooiman, then to the "Warren Block" in 1892 now occupied by Roelofs and in 1902 to the present building built by Mr. Foppe and occupied by the "Foppe Pioneer Store Co." until 1955.

The Large Bros.

The Large Bros. were active in the business development of the town of Rock Valley. Isaac S. Large (widely known as Ike Large) opened a grocery store in Rock Valley in about the year 1889 in partnership with S. A. Mitchell who was the father of Stephen A. Mitchell who now resides in Chicago, Illinois and for a number of years was Chariman of the National Democratic Committee. In 1895 John J. Large came to Rock Valley and with his brother opened a bank and operated same under the name of Large Bros. Bankers. In 1897 I. S. Large, John J. Large and S. A. Mitchell organized the First National Bank. Frank A. Large came to Rock Valley in 1892 and for a number of years worked in the grocery store with his brother

Isaac S. Large and in 1902 was appointed postmaster in Rock Valley and served in that capacity until the year 1909. John J. Large was appointed national bank examiner in the year 1909 when Frank A. Large purchased his stock in the First National Bank and became cashier of said bank and continued in that capacity until 1933.

After serving term as national bank examiner John J. Large became associated with a bank in Sioux City and later became president of the First National Bank there. Another brother, William Large, lived in Rock Valley for a number of years and at that time was employed in the grocery store operated by his brother Isaac S. Large.

Frank Large is the sole survivor of the four brothers and now makes his home in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The Michael Norris Family

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Norris and their family of six children arrived in Rock Valley, Iowa, in April of 1881. They had been living on a farm near Cobb, Wisconsin for fifteen years. In 1881, Mr. Norris came west into Iowa to look for a more suitable location in which to live. He came to Sioux County and was so impressed with the farm land that he bought farm land near Rock Valley and moved his family to make their home here.

Mr. Norris had always been a farmer and a cattle feeder in Wisconsin so he purchased a feed lot on the north side of Rock Valley near the Rock River, where the Rock Valley Cement Block and Tile Company is now located. For several years, Mr. Norris fed cattle and shipped the finished stock to the Chicago markets.

Mr. Norris built his home in the east part of Rock Valley. It is located at 2002 14th Street and it is now owned and occupied by

Mrs. Chris Jacobs. At the time that this house was built it was the last house on the south side of the street, which was then known as Kimball Avenue. The creamery was the only building east of this house, and now the very modern Rock Valley Creamery is located on the site of the old creamery.

The Norris family consisted of eight children. Six of the children were born in Wisconsin and two were born in Rock Valley. Members of the family are Anna, Mrs. F. L. Dixon of Rock Valley; Dr. Frank A. Norris of Jacksonville, Illinois; Dr. Luke L. Norris of Marcus, Iowa; Mary Norris of Rock Valley; Lona, Mrs. Frank T. McGill of Rock Valley; Paul T. Norris formerly of Chicago, Illinois, now deceased; Gerald B. Norris, retired F. B. I. Agent, of Miami Beach, Florida; and Dr. R. M. Norris of Jacksonville, Illinois. All of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Norris attended and graduated from the Rock Valley Public Schools. Four of the Norris boys enlisted in the armed forces in World War I, and one enlisted in World War II.

Mr. and Mrs. Norris were not early pioneers and settlers of the Rock Valley community, but they were early residents of the town of Rock Valley and resided continuously in Rock Valley until the time of their death.

Mrs. F. L. Dixon, her daughter, Mrs. Emmet R. Scanlan, Mary Norris, and Mrs. Frank T. McGill and her son, Thomas and his family, are all residents of Rock Valley.

Lona Norris McGill.

Jonas Klein Family

Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Klein settled in the Rock Valley vicinity in 1884, coming here from Plymouth county.

They were tenant farmers in three rural locations before buy-

ing their 120 acre farm northeast of section 32 in Rock Township. of Rock Valley.

In 1918, due to Mr. Klein's ill health, they bought a house on 15th Street and moved to town.

They were the parents of seven children — Peter, John, Anna, Teresa, William, Agnes and Marie who with her husband William B. Richter and their two children, Francis and Mary Ann own and live in the Klein home on 15th Street.

Amos Oakland Family

The Oakland farm located one mile west and one mile south of Rock Valley, was homesteaded by our father, Amos Oakland in 1872. When the government issued a call for settlers for this part of Iowa, a group of young men, including Mr. Oakland, came from Decorah, Iowa, in covered wagon and oxen, to stake their claim for 160 acres. Which as we recall, they were allowed to select their own acreage and then file their claim with the government, which was granted provided the necessary requirements were met.

The claimant was to live six months of each year for five years making the improvements required, such as breaking sod, planting trees, building fences, etc. But first to be done was to build a shelter for themselves, their oxen and horses, dig wells and many other necessities.

They endured many hardships as all pioneers did, which included grasshoppers, draught and blizzards. It was so far to go to get supplies, as the nearest towns at that time were LeMars and Sibley, which took several days or more to make the trip.

When the five years expired and government requirements were met, he received the deed in 1878 signed by President Rutherford B. Hayes, and he then became the owner of 160 acres, described as the northwest quarter

He remained here for several years making improvements as best he could, as he decided to make this his home. His first task was to build a house, which he built from logs cut from trees along the river, and other material such as doors, windows and flooring were bought either at LeMars or Sibley, to complete the two room cabin.

In 1880 when Rock Valley was just coming into existence he went to O'Neill, Nebr., and in 1881 was married to Miss Anna Seberie, and in November 1882, they and an infant daughter arrived here by covered wagon to make their future home. A few years later one room was added to the cabin, and in 1896 a new home was built.

Ten of the eleven children were born on the farm, and after the passing of our parents, the farm is still in possession of the Oakland family.

Fred J. Heisig Family

By Stella Heisig Schlecty

Fred J. Heisig was born March 22, 1858 in Savanna, Illinois of German ancestry. His wife Flora Elizabeth (Smith) was born November 19, 1858 in Jackson County, Iowa, of English ancestry.

They were married September 10, 1879, and farmed near Preston, Iowa for a few years. Realizing that in eastern Iowa where the land was high they probably would never be able to own a place of their own, and convinced that the further west offered larger opportunities, they decided to move, selecting Sioux County as the most favorable spot.

Mr. Heisig and family arrived in Rock Valley by train in March 1885 bringing their stock and household goods in an immigrant car which they shared with the C. Schmidt family, each having bought a quarter section of raw

prairie land (adjoining) 6½ miles northwest of Rock Valley.

The Heisig's at that time had three small children. The Schmidt's had seven, some grown.

The men of the families built small homes and barns while the two families lived in Rock Valley for a month.

They became very close friends sharing both the hardships and pleasures of pioneer life.

In many ways both Mr. and Mrs. Heisig were an influence in the community. They always stood for any good project and for good schools and education.

Mr. Heisig was school director in District No. 1 Sioux Township and served as secretary of schools in Sioux Township for many years.

Also, he was Township Assessor, road boss, Justice of the Peace, and served on the election board for many years.

As a carpenter he was very adept and built some homes in the community. He raised pure bred Duroc Jersey swine and for several years he belonged to the National Duroc Jersey Association and shipped breeding stock to many different states. He and John Schmidt (father of Ed) owned a threshing machine rig and threshed many years for all the neighbors for miles around.

There were 10 children in the family who grew to maturity, and all but the three oldest ones were college students. Seven of the girls taught school and one, Hazel, later became a nurse.

In 1894 the Heisigs bought a farm at Canistota, S. D., which they kept until after his death. The older son, Eber, farmed there from age of 17 until his death from pneumonia in 1901. Then their son Elmer farmed it a few years before he bought a ranch in North Dakota, where he now lives.

In 1924 they moved to Rock Valley and Mr. Heisig was manager of the Farmer's Elevator Co. for a few years. He died April 23, 1934, and Mrs. Heisig died January 1, 1944. Eight of his children still survive. They are Elmer Heisig, Morristown, S. D.; Dr. Marie J. Raders, Lena, Ill.; Mrs. G. W. Kessler, Sr., Denver, Colo.; Mrs. W. A. Brooke, Tuscon, Ariz.; Mrs. Wm. Beenen, Renwick, Iowa; Mrs. Lee Schlecty, Rock Valley, Iowa; Mrs. Louis Elbert, Doon, Iowa; and Mrs. W. R. Whiteis, Iowa City, Iowa.

The James Parden Family

Among the early settlers in Rock Valley, Iowa, was the family of James and Mary Parden. Mr. and Mrs. Parden came to live in Rock Valley in the spring of 1883. They had been living in Andover, New York.

Mr. Parden built a two story building on Main Street and opened a furniture store on the first floor of this building, and the second floor was used as a gathering place for church and school activities, dancing, and other functions in general. The first roller skating rink was introduced in Rock Valley in Parden's hall. This building is now occupied by the W. C. Kooiman and Sons General Store.

The Parden residence was located on the site of the present St. Mary's Church on 14th Street. This residence is now located at 2009 15th Street, and is owned and occupied by the William H. Davisson family.

The Parden family consisted of six children, three sons and three daughters. The members of the family are Dorothy Parden of George, Iowa; George Parden, formerly manager of a coal company in Omaha, Nebraska, now retired in southern Missouri; James A. Parden, operating a real estate business in Iowa City, Iowa; Charles Parden, formerly

of George, Iowa, now deceased; Irene Parden of George, Iowa; and Cecile, Mrs. Henry King, of Ashton, Iowa.

Mr. Parden was one of the first postmasters of Rock Valley, serving in that capacity for eight years.

In 1898, the Parden's bought a farm in Lyon County near George, Iowa. In 1915, Mr. Parden and his family retired from the farm and moved into their new home in George, where he and Mrs. Parden lived until the time of their death. Misses Dorothy and Irene Parden still live in the home in George.

Dorothy Parden.

Henry Schemmer

Henry Schemmer and wife, Catherine, and two sons Albert and John came to Rock Valley in 1881 from Loretta, Tennessee. He opened a wagon shop and blacksmith shop here at that time and continued in that business until he left for California in the year 1912 and his wife died in 1914. He moved back to Rock Valley in the year 1930 and died here in 1932.

After they came to Rock Valley in 1881 four other children were born to them, namely: Frank, Kate, Emma and Rose. During his life in Rock Valley Mr. Schemmer was very active in all public affairs and served as Mayor of Rock Valley for four terms. During his terms in office the street lights were installed in Rock Valley and his son Albert Schemmer was the first 'lamp lighter' in the town, it being his duty to light the street lights each evening.

Mr. Henry Schemmer was one of the original members of St. Mary's Catholic Parish in Rock Valley.

C. H. Schemmer.

John H. Kearns

John H. Kearns was born in

Webster City on January 5, 1878 and attended public and high school there until the "Panic of 1873" when he quit school to help in his fathers grocery store. Later he worked in another grocery store and then moved to a farm near Webster City where he resided for two years. He then moved back to Webster City and worked in a dry goods store there for five years. He was then employed by a wholesale grocery company and transferred to a Sioux City Wholesale Grocery Co. where he worked as city buyer until he was hired by Mr. J. B. Foppe to come to Rock Valley as dry goods manager and buyer in the Foppe Pioneer Store Co.

He married Mary Elizabeth Foppe on September 22, 1904 and they have two children, John Richard of Huron, South Dakota and Mrs. Clayton Matlock of Manhattan Beach, California.

Mr. Kearns served for a number of years as a member of the town council in Rock Valley and also served at different times as president, secretary and treasurer of the Rock Valley Commercial Club. He was the first treasurer of the Rock Valley branch of the American Red Cross and served for many years as such—being instrumental in rightfully keeping local funds here in Rock Valley. This Red Cross fund had been raised during World War 1 to take care of any and all assessments against the local Red Cross branch and the balance was to be used for local purposes. Numerous attempts were made by the higher-up officials to obtain these funds but Mr. Kearns resisted their efforts and was later praised for so doing by a Red Cross official from the Chicago office who stated "You are one of the surprisingly few who knew what to do in such cases and if bothered any more refer them to me."

With Mr. J. B. Foppe, Mr. J. C.

Wiggerman and Mr. Gerrit Ver-Meulen, Mr. Kearns assisted in forming the corporation known as the Foppe Pioneer Store Co. in the year 1907 and he served as secretary and treasurer for a number of years and succeeded to the presidency of the corporation upon the death of Mr. J. C. Wiggerman.

J. C. Wiggerman Family

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Wiggerman came to Rock Valley from Loretta, Tenn., in May, 1892, from a land of flowers, thriving gardens and sunshine to find a typical Iowa May snowstorm. A most discouraging landing but with the help and encouragement of relatives they decided to make Rock Vally their home.

About the last of that May, Mr. Wiggerman began working for Mr. Foppe as a delivery boy, with a small push cart. A year later, in July, 1893, when the store was moved to the Warren building he was promoted to grocery clerk. In 1902, Foppe's moved to their own building and he was placed in charge of the clothing department. Mr. Wiggerman or 'Wig' as he is better known used to boast of the distinction of selling shoes to families of five generations, for instance the H. S. Van Otterloo, R. Klay and Grossenburg families.

When the Dutch first began coming over from Holland to settle in Sioux County, he used to interpret for Reynold Klay Sr., father of the Late R. Klay in sending money and letters to the old country for the immigrants transportation and in turn aiding the immigrants in locating their friends and relatives and also helped the newcomers transact their business.

Mr. Wiggerman was a member of the Band that gave Sunday concerts on the old Steamboat 'Rock' that used to travel up the First River or 'Cut Off' to Doon. He served as town clerk from

1896 to 1909, as town treasurer from 1922 to 1926.

Mr. Wiggerman was born at Augusta, Kentucky, May 1, 1860. Mrs. Wiggerman was born at St. Mary's, Ohio May 22, 1897. They were married at Lawrenceburg, Tenn. Feb. 10, 1891. Three children are the survivors of the Wiggerman family; Euda (Mrs. H. A. Barnard) Rock Valley; Harriet, (Mrs. C. J. Kessler), Carroll, Iowa and Rose Mary, (Mrs. C. B. Kjelson), Sioux City, Iowa.

Euda Wiggerman Barnard

Dennis J. Scanlan

Dennis J. Scanlan was born March 19, 1864 at Wilmington, Ill. and came to northwest Iowa in the year 1884. He worked on farms and broke the prairie sod in and around Rock Valley for several years and then took over the real estate business which had been conducted by his brother Thomas Scanlan who then headed the banking business in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Mr. Scanlan has been and still is active in the real estate business which is now conducted under the name of Scanlan and Son and is in its 69th year. He was a member of the town council for a number of years and held the office of president and other offices in the Rock Valley District Fair Association which was dissolved some years ago.

Mr. Scanlan was married on November 22, 1892 to Jennie Castle who died in 1938. They had four sons. Three of the sons are actively engaged as chiropractors, namely Harley of Sheldon, Iowa who was recently elected vice president of the National Chiropractic Association, Francis of Algona and Clarence of Lake City, Iowa. The fourth son, Emmet has been associated with his father in the real estate and insurance business since his graduation from the University of Iowa in 1924.

E. R. Scanlan

Rock Valley Churches

1. Pioneer Methodist
2. St. Mary's Catholic
3. Peace Lutheran
4. First Reformed
5. Christian Reformed

6. Protestant Reformed
7. Netherland Reformed
8. Calvin Reformed
9. Our Savior's Lutheran

PIONEER METHODIST CHURCH, Rock Valley, Iowa

According to the County Atlas the first religious service in Rock Valley township was held by a Methodist minister, Rev. John Runyan, a traveling missionary, in 1879.

For the next few years, a Methodist minister living at what is now Hull (then Pattersonville) preached at the Dischler schoolhouse. In 1880 Rev. F. W. Luce organized a Methodist class. Final organization of a Methodist church was effected on May 18, 1882, with Rev. J. R. Faus as the appointed pastor.

Members of the first board of trustees were A. L. Burnell, E. A. Burnell, E. A. Loffswold, J. Lundy, W. Shipman and J. W. Boggese.

The church building, started in 1881, was completed in the fall of 1882. In reading over the old records one runs across the names of Corwin, Loffswold, Renshaw many times and in various capacities.

One item of interest was that for the building of the church, Vice President Wheeler made a gift of Fifty Dollars, the gift being solicited by the Shipman family. Title to the lot on which the church stands was given by Col. and Mrs. A. J. Warren.

The present parsonage was built in 1889, and was remodeled in 1905, 1927 and again in the late fall of 1945.

The Rock Valley Methodist Church through the 73 years of

existence has had many trying times, as well as prosperous years. It has never been left without a pastor, except for four months in 1923. It has always taken an active part in the life of the entire community, and for a good many years provided the only English-speaking service in town.

The church edifice has undergone several changes of structure. It was remodeled in 1899, in 1912 and again in 1934. The latest and most significant alterations were the raising of the church, putting in a full basement, and redecorating the sanctuary in 1947 through 1948 and was dedicated in 1949.

The pastors and the dates of their appointment are as follows: F. W. Luce, 1880; J. R. Faus, 1881; G. J. Corwin, 1883; C. W. Clifton, 1884; Joseph Jacobson, 1886; G. W. Barnes, 1887; L. A. Doare, 1888; F. J. Ledbrook, 1889; H. B. Green, 1890; F. S. Jory, 1893; C. E. Plummer, 1898; W. A. Richards, 1900; H. B. Burns, 1902; M. D. Bush, 1904; A. W. Hakes, 1906; F. F. Travis, 1908; C. H. Young, 1911; G. L. Shroyer, 1913; W. P. Webb, 1915; J. D. Douma, 1917; H. O. Ward, 1918; T. S. Bostick, 1920; A. F. Schuldt, 1921; F. E. Leazer, 1922; W. C. Bergman, 1923; L. F. Focht, 1926; G. A. Tyler, 1929; L. A. Hunslev, 1933; J. A. Kettle, 1935; L. A. Rachuv, 1940; O. E. Schaal, 1944; W. C. Miller, 1945; M. L. Jones, 1946; N. A. Price, 1954.

The longest pastorate of the

local church to date was that of M. L. Jones which was nearly eight and one-half years.

The life and task of the church has been and still is to teach Christ in such a way that its people will come to know how to live with their God, their families, their communities, and their nation.

Present trustees are Paul Coltenbaugh, John Meylink, Harry Kersbergen, Corrie Rozeboom, Hessel Roorda, John Dykstra, and J. P. Schutt.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

The history of the Catholic Church in Rock Valley, Iowa, antedates the existence of the town itself, for, according to the records, Father John Smith of Emmetsburg, Iowa, said Mass here in 1872 for the four Catholic families he found in the district. Seven years later, in the winter of 1879, Father Lynch of Sheldon, Iowa, visited Rock Valley and offered the Holy Sacrifice in the public school, a small frame building, which in those days, it would seem, was used not only for secular education but as a convenience for the religious denominations of the community. Incidentally, it was later purchased by Sebastian Dischler, converted into residence, and still stands on Main street.

By the year 1882 the Catholic population had increased to about thirteen families, and, with their zealous cooperation, under the direction of Father John A. O'Rielly of Sheldon, the first Catholic Church was erected in Rock Valley at a monetary cost of approximately \$400.00 and St. Mary's parish was formed. The ground secured consisted of two lots, one of which was donated by A. J. Warren who platted the town of Rock Valley. Honorable

mention should be made of the early pioneers who sacrificed their time, energy and limited financial means to provide a fitting house of worship. They were Valentine Aurit, Mrs. Bushman, William Marmoeller, Lewis Henningfeld, Henry Henningfeld, Henry Plate, William Richter, Bernard Richter, Matt McGuire, John Murphy, Matt Blau, Ed Quirilan, Pat Solon and P. S. Sullivan. The church was dedicated to Our Lady of Grace, and it is worthy of note that the original bell and sanctuary lamp were brought by Wm. Sumeier from Burlington, Wisconsin. It will be of interest to the present generation to know that in those days the entire population of Rock Valley did not exceed thirty persons, about one-third of whom were Catholics.

Among the early pioneers who came shortly thereafter are mentioned the following: P. A. Cummings, Henry Schemmer, Bernard Sandschulte, J. B. Foppe, Mulhall Bros., John Sheridan, Sebastian Dischler and Pat Hanlon. In the year 1888, four acres of ground were purchased from George and Mary Ann Dray for \$160.00 to be used as the Catholic cemetery. The first person buried therein was George Forge who had previously been interred in the public cemetery and whose remains were later moved to St. Mary's Cemetery.

St. Mary's remained a mission from Sheldon until 1885 when Rev. John Phelan was appointed the first resident pastor and during his administration the church was enlarged in 1888, a parochial school was built in 1891 and a spacious rectory constructed in 1899. After serving the parish for 18 years, he was transferred to Marcus, Iowa, and was re-

placed by Rev. John A. O'Rielly in 1903.

During the 26 years of Father O'Rielly's administration the school was enlarged in 1907 and it soon was found that the original frame church was inadequate and necessary steps were taken to construct a new building. This was accomplished in 1913. This edifice will long remain as a worthy monument to the people of St. Mary's of yesteryears and to Father John A. O'Rielly, who died on January 23, 1930. On February 13, 1930, Rev. A. J. Foerster was appointed pastor and he endeared himself to Catholics and non-Catholics alike during the eleven years of his administration. Ill health forced him to resign and on June 4, 1941, he was succeeded by the present pastor, Father David T. McGoev who came here from Sheldon where he had been assistant.

St. Mary's is proud of three priests who at one time were members of the parish, Father William A. Kaschmitter, M. M.; Father H. B. Kramer and Father Elias (Joseph) Achatz, O. S. B., the latter having been ordained in 1945 and is at present doing missionary work in the Bahamas. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Achatz formerly resided in the parish.

Among those who devoted their lives to the sisterhood are the following former members of St. Mary's: Julia Escher, Mary Tasshaller, Julia Carney, Mary Sullivan, Frances Tasshaller, Josephine Lynch, Margaret Rielly, Mary Rielly, Rose Rielly, and Catherine Rielly, the latter four being members of the same family and belonging to the Sisters of Mercy.

Of those children of the charter members who were born be-

fore the first church was built and who still reside in the parish only two remain, James Quinlan and Mrs. A. F. Schemmer. To them goes much of the credit for making available items of interest concerning the early days of the parish.

PEACE LUTHERAN

CHURCH, Rock Valley, Iowa

Peace Lutheran Church, located 7 miles south of Rock Valley, was organized in the fall of 1891 by a small group of German Lutherans. The following year a church and parsonage was built on the present site which was donated by Hans Moeller, Sr. Prior to the organization, services were held at a schoolhouse.

The first pastor was Rev. Kleinleine and services conducted in the German language. In 1900 an addition was built to the church. Two years later a tornado destroyed the church but another church was erected the same year.

As the years went by the membership increased and it became necessary to build a new church. Work was begun in 1930 and in January 1931 the new church was dedicated. About 10 years later a new modern parsonage was built and the grounds and cemetery landscaped. In 1952 an addition was added to the basement.

Peace Lutheran Church is a member of the American Lutheran Church. It has enjoyed a steady growth, with a present membership of 250.

William Winterfeld FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

The history of the local First Reformed Church of Rock Valley began on November 17, 1890. The Classis of Iowa had appointed a committee consisting of Rev. James A. De Pree, A. Vandenberg and T. Wayenberg to consider organization of a congre-

gation at Rock Valley. Their favorable report led to formal organization, with the following families as charter members:

Mr. and Mrs. G. Kleveringa, Mr. and Mrs. G. Veldboom, Mr. and Mrs. M. Wissink, Mr. and Mrs. D. Haarsma, L. Wynia, C. Vander Laan, A. Brandsma, A. Kassen, G. D. Postma, A. J. Kemper, G. A. Van Wild, B. Sweep, Mrs. E. Louis, Miss E. Van de Noowe, Mr. and Mrs. D. Bloem, Mr. and Mrs. G. Zeeman, Miss Laura Van der Ploeg, B. Vander Laan and R. Van Wild.

The first Elders were G. Kleveringa and G. D. Postma; the first Deacons, D. Haarsma and A. Kassen.

First minister to receive a call was Rev. P. Van der Kam, who declined, leaving the new church pastorless until August 26, 1891, when the Rev. J. Huizenga accepted the call. He arrived here in December, 1891.

Ministers and their pastorates during the life of the church have been:

Rev. J. Huizenga—1891-1904

Rev. J. Engelsman—1905-1908

Rev. J. De Jongh—1908-1914

Rev. B. De Jonge—1914-1917

Rev. H. Colenbrander—1917-1925

Rev. R. D. Douwstra—1925-1929

Rev. C. Newhouse—1930-1934

Rev. H. J. Aberson—1935-1947

Rev. H. Van Deelen—1948-1952

Present pastor, Rev. A. A. Dykstra, was installed on March 27, 1953, coming here from the Trinity Reformed church of Kalamazoo, Mich. This is Rev. Dykstra's fourth pastorate, following ordination to the ministry in 1938.

The congregation is worshipping in its third church building. The first building erected in 1891 was a frame structure at a cost of \$2200. A second building of brick construction was erected in

1912. That building, including furnishings, cost about \$9000. The pipe organ was installed in 1918 at a cost of \$2300. Present sanctuary is a building which incorporates the previous structure plus a substantial new addition built in 1951.

In the passing of the years the church has witnessed the change from the Dutch to an all-English program as it is today. Former catechism classes were in Dutch; the change to English came in 1918, due in part to the pressures then brought to bear upon foreign-speaking groups and as part of the wartime psychology.

The congregation today numbers a bit over 200 families with a total of about 800 members. A Consistory of 13 men directs the activities of the church. Dick Roelofs is superintendent of the Sunday school of 300 members.

Several organizations for women and young people are presently active. Three choirs provide music for Sunday worship throughout the year. Worship services are at 9:30 A. M. and at 1:30 P. M. on Sunday.

The church maintains an active program of catechism with seven classes and a present enrollment of nearly 200. Classes are held from September to May. A considerable proportion of younger members are at present pursuing advanced education with 18 attending college during this present school year. The roll of members today is distributed between the town and the rural area with about an equal number in each group.

FIRST CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

The First Christian Reformed denomination in the United States was founded in 1857 and the first Congregation in Rock Valley on September 14, 1891.

The denomination's creedal basis is the Belgic Confession, The Canons of Dort, and The Heidelberg Catechism.

Its "constitution" is the Church Order, adopted at famous Synod of Dort in 1618-1619. Its form of government is the Presbyterian, i.e., each local congregation is ruled by a consistory, consisting of minister, elders and deacons.

As above, the church which is the subject of the sketch, was founded September 14, 1881, and included seven families. The first consistory consisted of two elders and two deacons: J. Tinklenberg, S. Van Oterloo, C. De Bruin and J. Harmsen.

The first years were years of trial and struggle. These were not of the rich or mighty of this world. They were poor. They met in each others' homes on the Lord's day and later in a rented house. Many efforts were put forth in conjunction with other churches to call a pastor but all these efforts proved fruitless.

Finally they decided to "go it alone" and the first pastor was the Rev. A. Vander Bok who came in 1897. He left in 1904 but returned as pastor emeritus and died in 1914.

However, his family remained in Rock Valley and his only living daughter, Miss Kate Vander Bok, is still one of the honored members.

The church experienced phenomenal growth, however, due largely to immigration. Membership is of Dutch origin and all the services were conducted in the Holland language. Soon the need was felt for a church building and the first church was bought for \$600.00. It was purchased from the Norwegians.

During the years various properties were used, enlarged, remodeled, etc., until the present

church was built in 1909.

Present congregation numbers 200 families, approximately 500 communicants, and totals about 900 souls.

From time to time the First Christian Reformed lost a number of members as congregations were organized in the vicinity at Inwood, Doon, Lebanon, and the local Calvin Christian Reformed Church.

Also in the course of the years transition was made from a "Dutch" to a bi-lingual to an all American church.

Services are now conducted in the English language. A cordial invitation is extended to anyone who desires to worship at any time.

During the course of last year the church installed a new Moller organ which is one of the finest in this area.

Members of the Christian Reformed church are committed to the principle of free parental Christian schools. The First Christian Reformed school is not parochial but free, though it receives its major support from members of this church.

"The good hand of our Lord is upon us. We preach the gospel of free sovereign grace and salvation through the blood of the Cross. That gospel has been preached in all these years by the following ministers"

A. Vander Bok, 1897-1904; H. J. Heynen, 1904-1907; J. Holwerda, 1908-1914; H. Kuiper, 1915-1923; J. H. Geerlings, 1923-28; J. Gritter, 1929-38; H. J. Triesenberg, 1938-43; H. Kuiper, 1944-51. The present pastor, C. Huissen, began his ministry in December, 1952.

"Here we raise our Ebenezers, Hither by Thy help we've come."

—The Rev. Mr. Christian Huissen.

PROTESTANT REFORMED CHURCH

The earliest beginnings of the Protestant Reformed congregation dates back to the spring of the year 1928. At that time, many of the original members of this congregation attended services at Doon, Hull and Sioux Center where churches of this denomination were being organized.

Later meetings were held in Rock Valley in a house located at that time on 17th Street. Soon, however, this place of meeting proved inadequate and services were held in a garage which is now the location of Al's Welding Shop.

Much time and effort was spent by some of the charter members to render this garage a fitting place for public worship.

In the early summer of 1928, Rev. H. Hoeksema of Grand Rapids, Michigan, was scheduled to hold three successive Sunday evening meetings in Rock Valley. Many were of the opinion that the "garage" would not hold the anticipated audiences, so a hall was rented.

Peculiar about this hall was that its electric light was to be procured only by dropping a quarter into a "pay meter."

Since this was unknown to the renters, it happened that while the speaker was preaching, the audience was suddenly cast into darkness since the electricity obtained by a previously inserted quarter had been spent. The Rev. Hoeksema, however, continued the sermon.

On July 16, 1928, the congregation was finally organized. Charter members are as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Tim Kooima, Mr. and Mrs. Siebert Kooima, Mr. and Mrs. Bas Lems, Mr. and Mrs.

Gerrit Lems, Mr. and Mrs. U. J. Dykstra, Jan Pater, Henry Mulder, Pete Spruyt, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Lems, Mr. and Mrs. M. Van Beek, Mr. and Mrs. J. Vanden Top, Gertrude Dykstra, Tim Kooima and Bas Lems were chosen as the first elders and Henry Mulder as the first deacon.

Plans were also immediately made to obtain their own church building and in February of the following year this building, now located on the corner of 16th Street and 18th Avenue, was dedicated to the worship and service of God.

On September 25, 1929, the first pastor, Rev. A. Cammenga, was ordained to the Ministry of the Word and Sacraments and installed as pastor.

At present the congregation numbers 31 families. There are five Consistory members.

The following societies are active in the congregation: The Ladies Aid and Men's society.

The Young People's society does not meet at present. There are 28 children and young folk on the rolls of the four catechism classes.

Pastors having served the congregation are the following: Rev. A. Cammenga, 1929-1933; Rev. A. Cammenga, 1935-1939; Rev. Peter W. Vis, 1939-1948; Rev. C. Cammenga was installed as pastor this congregation in December, 1948, and is its present pastor.

The congregation is also co-sponsor of the Sovereign Calvin hour; "Witnissing for the Calvinistic Reformed Faith" which is heard every Sabbath morning at 8:00 o'clock over radio station KSOO at Sioux Falls.

THE NETHERLAND REFORMED CONGREGATION

The Netherland Reformed Congregation at Rock Valley origin-

ates from the year 1914. It was then a very small congregation. The first elder was Jacob Van Kikerix, and Albert Vredeweld its first deacon.

Rev. A. Van Dyke, Pastor of the Netherland Reformed Congregation at Sioux Center, was the moderator of the Rock Valley Church, and would frequently visit this congregation, preach the Word of God and administer the Sacraments.

The congregation was blessed by King Jesus, and increased steadily, so that the consistory had to be enlarged and soon an addition added to the building.

In the year 1931, the Rev. J. Vande Hoef was called from Sioux Center, and became their first pastor. Then the membership increased yet more rapidly. This beloved pastor served the congregation for eleven years. At the age of 65 years, his labors were finished and the Lord of all flesh, of life and of death, took him to Himself in glory. His death was a great loss for the congregation. The Rev. J. Van Zweden, pastor of the Netherland Reformed Congregation at Passaic, New Jersey, came over to lead the funeral of the beloved pastor.

Up to the year 1946, all the services were in the Holland language. This was changed when the Rev. J. Van Zweden accepted the call of the congregation in the same year. He was installed by the Rev. J. C. Wielhouwer of Grand Rapids. The congregation has three services every Sunday, of which are two in the American language.

The number of members is still increasing and the old churchbuilding is again becoming too small to accomodate all the people. In the year 1954, the con-

gregation decided to build a new churchbuilding. This building is now being constructed on the same spot of Wisconsin Stone, Mr. G. W. Ter Clay of Sheldon, Iowa, being its constructor.

Rev. J. Van Zweden

THE CALVIN CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

The Calvin Church was officially organized on April 23, 1951.

Prior to that time a group in the congregation of the Rock Valley church felt the need for a second church in lieu of the largeness and the crowded conditions of the mother church. The Orzanization minutes of April, 1952, reveal the following information. The representatives of the consistories of First Rock Valley, Doon and Inwood, having been appointed by Classis Sioux Center to effect this organization were duly represented. Dr. H. Kuiper acted as chairman and Rev. N. Beute served as clerk. The service of the evening was opened with the singing of No. 176 of the Ps. Hymnal, Scripture reading from Isaiah 54 and prayer. The Rev. A. H. Bratt of Doon preached on the text which heads this history. An offering for the church that was to be organized was received to the amount of \$463.21. The membership certificates of those who wished to be organized into a new church revealed eleven families and two unmarried confessing members so minded.

Following this organization the following officers were elected: As Elders: John M. Spoolstra and Henry R. Vander Bok; as Deacons: John E. Vande Kerk and Tom Mulder.

"One marvels at this small Gideon band who has the distinct honor of becoming charter members of this newly or-

ganized church. Their vision was undimmed and their faith strong. Without leadership, limited in their finances, not knowing their place of meeting on the following Sabbath or who was to preach for them they nonetheless went ahead in faith and effected the organization of the church which building we dedicate tonight," the pastor said on the night of dedication.

"The lines are fallen unto 'us' in pleasant places." Ps. 16: 6.

This day of the dedication of our new church building is an occasion of great joy for all of us. It brings to us in bold relief the thought expressed in the words of the Psalmist, in the above words.

Though the history of our church be not lengthy, we look back upon the short span of time and realize the great goodness and blessing of Almighty God. It has been beyond the expectations of us all. It hardly seems possible that within the short space of two short years we stand at the threshold of this the dedication of our beautiful building. We are seized with the solemn thought that indeed our absolute independence is upon the Lord Our God who, "hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

The smallness of the group who constitutes the membership of this church did not deter them from this undertaking for they were convinced that they had a reason for being. The building of this church edifice was the work of all the members. It was an act of faith and it so far forth it was a religious exercise. Through the combined efforts of a determined people, often in the face of disappointment, we, by the grace of God, are dedicating this symbol of our faith.

The unity of effort resulting in this church building is expressive of our unity in the most holy faith. Let us ever prize that highly and strive diligently to maintain it as we worship here from Sabbath to Sabbath. May this building truly symbolize the unity of God's people here on earth reaching upward and onward to heaven.

The congregation met for the first time in the local Methodist Church on the Sabbath of April 29, 1951, with Dr. John Masselink of Orange City and Mr. J. C. Lobbes conducting the worship.

At a congregational meeting of May 14 the name "Calvin Christian Reformed of Rock Valley" was decided upon. Efforts were also put forth for the procurement of a seminarian for the summer months and Robert B. Vermeer was assigned to the congregation. He served adequately and lent valuable leadership that summer as well as the summer of 1952.

Efforts to obtain a minister were put forth as early as August 7, 1951, from the following trio of ministers: Rev. M. Goote, Fred Handlogten and Henry Radius. Rev. Fred Handlogten was called but declined to accept. Efforts were continued to obtain a minister but they had to wait for two years until Candidate John C. Ribbens, then serving the congregation of Orange City for the summer months, was called and accepted that call to become the first pastor. Mr. Ribbens assumed his work with the Calvin church on August 24, 1952, just prior to his classical examination at Corsica, South Dakota, on September 10th and his ordination to the ministry on the 11th of September, 1952. The Ribbens family took up residence at the church parsonage located

at 1711 Main Street in Rock Valley.

The origin of the building committee arose out of the appointment by the consistory of a committee consisting of C. Kooima, Al Van Beek and W. C. Warntjes. On July 9, 1951, a permanent building committee was appointed by the consistory of Messrs. Charles Kooima, chairman; W. C. Warntjes, secretary; Albert Van Beek, Frank Druyvestein and one consistory member, John E. Vande Kerk. This committee served ably and faithfully in that capacity until the completion of the present structure. In July of 1951 the present building site was purchased.

On August 7, 1951, the proposed building plan was presented to the congregation which was unanimously approved. In the course of that same week the process of building was begun. The building progressed steadily to the point wherein they were able to occupy the basement on Christmas day of 1951. At this juncture the superstructure was already in existence but the actual finishing of it did not take place until December 3, 1952, when it was decided to finish the auditorium. It was exactly on the second anniversary week of the organization of the church that the auditorium was finished to the point of enabling worship there for the first time.

Physical structure was made possible through the following means of financing: In answer to a request for a loan from the Church Help Fund they received word on July 19, 1951, that the request for \$10,000 had been granted.

In addition to the burden of a building program, a parsonage was also procured for the sum of \$11,000 through the generosity of one of the members in extending the loan. Prior to the occupancy by the present pastor the parsonage underwent extensive remodeling and redecorating made possible through the concentrated efforts of the ladies of the congregation.

During the period of construction many members on various occasions donated time and talent.

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, Rock Valley, Iowa

Our Savior's Lutheran Church was organized December 28, 1952 in the V. F. W. Hall, Rock Valley. The presiding Minister at the Organization was Dr. H. W. Siefkes, President of the Iowa District, Waterloo, Iowa. The first Pastor was the Rev. C. J. Rebelein of Sioux Center, Iowa. Ground breaking service was held on the lots given by Mr. and Mrs. F. Klein after the service on Sunday morning, April 26, 1953. Service was held by Rev. Rebelein. Building to be 36 x 72 feet. Building operations began shortly thereafter.

The first meeting held in the basement of the new building was the annual business meeting December 14, 1953. The first worship service was held on Sunday, December 20, 1953.

The first Sunday school was held August 3, 1952 with Mr. Robert Kaufman as the first Sunday School Superintendent. There were 22 children enrolled.

The present pastor, Rev. Henry Prieb, was installed April 24, 1955.

Rev. H. Prieb, Pastor

Rock Valley Organizations

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Order Eastern Star | 7. Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary |
| 2. Catholic Daughters of America | 8. Commercial Club |
| 3. Masons | 9. Rock Valley Federated Woman's Club |
| 4. American Legion | 10. Just A Mere Federated Woman's Club |
| 5. American Legion Auxiliary | 11. Rotary Club |
| 6. Veterans of Foreign Wars | |

Order of the Eastern Star

A charter was granted the Order of the Eastern Star No. 433 Rock Valley, Iowa, on the 27th, day of Oct. 1910 by the Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star of Iowa. The Charter members were: Mrs. Sarah Buffington, Mrs. Emogene Eldridge, Mrs. Harriet Gartland, Mrs. Edna Hakes, Mrs. Jessie N. Huie, Mrs. Mate Jacobs, Mrs. Mae M. Large, Mrs. Martha Large, Mrs. Sarah Mathews, Mrs. Martha Plumbe, Mrs. Stattie Pember, Mrs. Mary Parkenson, Mrs. Clara Roantree, Mrs. Clara P. Schirmer, Mrs. Alice Schulte, Mrs. Clara Shipman, Mrs. Minnie Suter, M. S. Huie, J. W. Jacobs, J. J. Large, H. H. Pember, Robert E. Roantree.

The first Worthy Matron of this Chapter was Mrs. Clara Roantree and the Associate Matron, Mate Jacobs. The First Worthy Patron was Robert E. Roantree.

The objective of this order is charity and hospitality and in this work the Chapter has continued through the years. The present membership is 78.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA

The Catholic Daughters of America, formerly known as the Daughters of Isabella, organized Court St. Anne, No. 215, in Rock Valley on October 4, 1913, with a class of thirty eight members, of which Anna Norris Dixon was the first Grand Regent and Fa-

ther John A. O'Reilly the first Chaplain.

Exemplifying the Catholic Daughters motto of Unity and Charity, the local court was ever alert to emergency and need; always eager to give and to serve.

One of their many charitable acts was the adoption and support of four war orphans during World War I.

The bell in St. Mary's Church tower was donated by Court St. Anne in 1914 and is a constant reminder of their loyalty and charity.

At the present time the local court boasts a roster of 85, of whom 14 are charter members.

The Masonic Lodge

Golden Sheaf Lodge No. 605, Rock Valley, Iowa, was granted a charter on June 2, 1909. The following were charter members:

Robert Roantree
M. S. Huie
A. W. Hakes
A. J. Shirmer
H. H. Pember
Richard Huizenga
John J. Large
W. G. Harkins
William Mathews
D. L. Renshaw
J. F. Schulte
C. A. Walhof
J. W. Jacobs
C. W. Jacobs
N. A. Fink
I. E. Eldridge
J. C. Vitzthum

It has grown since then so that at the present time there are over 50 members.

AMERICAN LEGION

A movement for the organization of a local American Legion Post was started by the returning Veterans during the summer of 1919, and then on the evening of November 14th, 1919 about 50 ex-servicemen met in Foppe's Hall for the purpose of organizing a local post of the American Legion. Starr Thayer was appointed Commander (Chairman), then called this meeting to order and explained the purpose of the meeting.

Dr. Dick Huizenga gave a talk in which he outlined the advantages and privileges of being a member.

Temporary officers were chosen as follows:

Henry Dahl, Post Commander

John Haupt, Adjutant

Fred Collenbaugh, Vice Post Commander

Cornie Rozeboom, Finance Officer

Albert Kersbergen, Master of Arms

Starr Thayer, Jas. E. Walpole and Dr. Richard (Dick) Huizenga as executive committee.

The matter of a name for the Post was discussed. The name Pfarrer-Fox was selected at a later meeting in memory of Wm. Pfarrer and Wilbur Fox who were first reported to have died in the Service of their Country.

On the 12th of December, 1919 a conditional Charter was granted subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee to the following members:

Robert H. De Vries

Ray Walter Loftes

Cornelius Dodewaard

William Wyrina

Colonel S. Kemp

E. G. Dearborn

Herman A. Oldenkamp

Carl B. Linkenheil

Joseph G. Beumer

Cornie Rozeboom

Jake Vande Weerd

Homer A. Jacobs

Jas. E. Walpole

Arthur De Smet

Ed J. Schmidt

Conditions having been met a Charter was granted to the Post on April 10th, 1921 and made permanent on May 17th, 1921,

Those who gave their lives in the service of our country in World War One and his Gold Star Mother are:

Wm. Pfarrer — Anna Pfarrer

Wilbur Fox — Jeanette Fox

James McKeegan—Alvinia McKeegan

Dick Van Holland—Gertie Van Holland

Jake Koning — Anna Koning

Arthur Mulder — Martje Mulder Van Otterloo

Years later in World War Two those who gave their lives and his Gold Star Mother are:

James Achterhof—Johanna Achterhoff

Del Thayer — Lillie Thayer

Robert Rielly — Mary Rielly

Gerrit H. Vugteveen — Susie Vugteveen

Peter De Boer — Anna De Boer

Lawrence Kooima—Anna Kooima

Herbert Baartman — Bertha Baartman

The Pfarrer-Fox post has always been active in County organization and Charitable enterprises; for example, the minutes of October 16th, 1934 alone record that a day was designated to gather up clothing for the needy; two members gave reports on relief projects for the unemployed, in addition to a collection of 5c per member toward the entertainment of unfortun-

ate comrades in the Hospital at Cherokee, Iowa.

The Post was host to the Ninth District Convention on December 6th, 1934. This convention had a remarkably fine attendance considering that at 9 o'clock that evening the temperature was 20 degrees below zero, making it necessary for the visiting drum and bugle corps to perform indoors.

Again in 1941 the Post entertained the ninth District convention.

It is interesting to note that a movement for a memorial building was started by resolution in the meeting of Feb. 14th, 1935 to be presented to the Town Council.

In 1936 the Post first sponsored a Boy Scout organization which has been carried on since. A few years later the post sponsored a very fine drum and bugle corps under the direction of Norman Dearborn. Miss Ann Sandschulte, the Post's only woman member, was adjutant in 1944. She has always taken an active part in the objectives of the Post, both in time and many years of service.

In years of consecutive service as an officer, Harvey Bernard's record is unequaled, having carried out his duties as Service Officer since 1924. Elmer Miller and Gerrit (Speed) Vermeer, too, have performed many years of service.

During the years the Post has sponsored Boy's State, and has sent several worthy boys to learn and take part in government. Junior Baseball, too, has been successfully sponsored.

At the close of World War Two the American Legion invited the Veterans of this war to membership. The response to this invitation has greatly increased the membership, both on the State

and local level, and to the extent that the affairs of the Legion are being rapidly turned over to these younger members. It is indicated that these new members have profited by the experience of the older, and therefore are the better qualified to see that the Legion constantly seeks newer and better ways to carry out its obligations as outlined in the preamble to its constitution. Pfarrer-Fox Post was organized for the purpose of carrying out these obligations on a local level so that its efforts may be reflected to State and National levels through the working of Democracy to make this world a better place for our children and children's children to live in.

Compiled from records and memory by: Ed J. Schmidt.

THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The American Legion Auxiliary was organized in Rock Valley as a sister to the Pfarrer-Fox Post 321 of Rock Valley, April 14, 1921. There were seventy-five (75) members the first year. Mrs. M. Norris was the first president; Miss Alice Haupt was secretary.

The heart of the organization is in the preamble to the constitution which reads "For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To promote and perpetuate the spirit of patriotism and love of country and liberty; to uphold and defend and assist in establishing the principals of the American Legion; to consecrate our friendship for each other by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; to promote higher ideals of American citizenship; to keep alive the memory of the men and women who died in defense of our country during the great World War."

Sometime later the constitution has been changed to read to the preamble of today: "For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one-hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations during the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to prosperity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to participate in and contribute to the accomplishments of the aims and purposes of the American Legion; to consecrate our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

The first year of its organization all members campaigned for the soldiers bonus.

One big feature that year was the organization of the County organization which happened on October 25, 1921. Caroline (Mrs. Starr Thayer) of Rock Valley was elected Temporary Chairman with Miss Alice Haupt acting as secretary. Miss Mary Bowers of Alton, was elected as first county secretary. Mrs. John McKeegan, a Gold Star member, was appointed Chairman of credentials. The second county convention was held in Sioux Center with the James Doornink Post being the entertaining post on May 9, 1922 and at this time the Two Oaks Post of Hawarden extended an invitation to the Sioux County American Legion

and Auxiliary Association to come to Hawarden and the invitation was accepted.

The first Gold Star Mothers were Mrs. John McKeegan for her son James; Mrs. Henry Vande Weerd for her son Kersbergen; Mrs. Anna Pfarrer for her son William; Mrs. Van Holland for her son Dick Van Holland; Mrs. Fox for her son William Fox; Mrs. G. Van Otterloo for her son Arthur; and Mrs. Fred Koning for her son Jake, and one Gold Star wife, Mrs. Dick Van Eldik.

The officers and committees for the Auxiliary are a President; a vice president; historian, chaplain, sergeant at arms; secretaries corresponding and recording and a treasurer. The committees are Americanism, Child Welfare, Civil Defense, Community Service, Constitution and By Laws, Education, Flying Squadron, Gold Star, Hawkeye Girl's State, Junior Activities, Legislation, Membership, Music, National Security, Pan American, Past President, Poppy, Publicity, Radio and Rehabilitation, beside local finance, social activities.

In connection with Child Welfare the organization the Auxiliary has given to the milk fund, the school lunch program and to community service to the summer recreation program. They have held Gold Star teas with a remembrance given and also each Gold Star person presented with a Gold Star pin in 1952 and remembered them with handkerchiefs or cards each year.

Have sent the following girls to Girl's State: Cleo Eggleston, Mathilda Middle, and Susan Hamann, each of these girls being a high ranking member of the Junior class in High School. Each of these girls came back and gave very interesting talks

on Girl's State, both to Legion and Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary has also had the privilege of hearing the Boys who had attended Boy's State. Girl's and Boy's State teach government to those attending. The young people were always invited to the lunch that followed the meetings.

Perhaps one of the outstanding features sponsored by the Auxiliary was the two years of the Drum and Bugle Corps which made appearance at various nearby towns as well as exhibitions put on up town and in the baseball park. The corps was made up of both girls and boys and were very spiffy in white shirts, slacks, blue caps trimmed in gold braid and wore red sashes.

The District Convention was entertained in Rock Valley on two different occasions and always brought the best to be had in musical organizations.

Every year Rock Valley takes part in the magazine drive for portable sick room equipment.

Members generally work on the polio drive and at present are working on the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee for Rock Valley.

They helped the Legion in the clean-up of the building which they will hold their meetings in; helping to secure furniture needed for this project.

The officers elected for this year are: Mrs. Lee (Stella Schlecty, president; Mrs. William (Genevieve) Rielly, vice president; secretary; Mrs. Harvey (Euda) Barnard, treasurer; Florence Miller, chaplain; Amelia Muehlethaler, sergeant at arms; Hazel Dearborn, historian.

A membership drive is held every year to secure new mem-

bers.

In the presidential election year the ladies served lunch in the wood workers shop downtown to the voters who were waiting and listening for election returns and to the clerks and judges of election.

They have sent parcels to veterans hospitals, boxes to service men, and gifts to children's homes and hospitals at Christmas time and other times throughout the year, as needed, by request from the Department office.

In 1949 they compiled data of service men to be published in a book which was sold to all those desiring the Service Record Book.

Poppies are sold every Saturday before Memorial Day which fund goes for Welfare work for veterans.

One member, Mrs. Euda Barnard is a past District president.

Mrs. Anna Dixon has served twice as president in separated terms of office.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post No. 5722, Rock Valley, Iowa, was organized by Fred Collenbaugh on March 11, 1946 with the assistance of Joseph Earith, Eighth District Commander, and John Talk, Quartermaster of the Warren C. Schull Post of Sioux City, Iowa. The first officers elected were as follows: Commander, Arthur W. Bergsma; Senior Vice Comm., Gerrit De Bruin; Junior Vice Comm., Andrew Van Boeyan; Quartermaster, Alvin Miller; Post Advocate, John Riessen; Officer of the Day, William Kersbergen; Chaplain, Rev. Maurice Jones. The number of charter members was 35 and at each monthly meeting for the next four months, five to eight new members were added.

Since its organization the Post has been active in all matters for the benefit of the town and people. In 1947 they sponsored the Art B. Thomas Shows in Rock Valley, and in 1951 sponsored the girls soft-ball team and furnished all equipment for them.

In 1952 they obtained club rooms of their own in the Dr. Schroeder building where their headquarters are now located. The Post has a present membership of 71 and the present officers are Harry J. Talsma, Commander and John Bauman, Sr. Vice Commander.

Harry J. Talsma

Auxiliary of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 572

Through the efforts of Mrs. Bert Leck of Rock Valley the Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars was organized in May of 1948 by Mrs. Margaret Jones of Des Moines, past Department President and Mrs. Ruby Shea of Cherokee, 8th District President. There were 21 charter members.

All money taken in by this organization is used for veterans, their wives and children. The local post has donated funds for an x-ray machine, made bed pads, sent candy, magazines, comic books to various hospitals and donated to the summer recreation fund in Rock Valley.

One-thousand poppies are sold each year on poppy day which is held in September. This money is used for a relief fund and rehabilitation work. The post also donates toward the hot lunch program each year.

The national V. F. W. organizations maintain a home at Eaton Rapids, Mich. which is a city in itself. This community of 41 modern buildings is equipped to handle 250 children and provides a swimming pool, gymnasium, athletic fields, library, hospital, nursery and community center.

A chapel, modern guest lodge, laundry and clothing and grocery store are also included.

The campus is 50 acres with nearly 600 acres of fertile farm, dairy and orchard land.

There are 18 active members in the local post at present. Meetings are held each third Monday of the month in the V. F. W. Hall on Main Street.

Mrs. Merle Suter, Past Aux. President.

Rock Valley Commercial Club

In looking back over the 75 years of Rock Valley's life we find some interesting and informative facts concerning its business and commercial life. Our town has always been busy and industrious and its merchants, business and professional men have been and still endeavor to be instrumental in helping Rock Valley to grow and prosper.

Rock Valley's business men no doubt worked together quite closely in the beginning years of the city and the first organization formed to actively promote the welfare and good will of the community was known as Rock Valley Town and Country club formed in 1915 with offices located above what is now Smith's pharmacy (the Schemmer building).

Membership was composed of businessmen and farmers totaling over 200 at one time.

In checking back we note in a booklet published by this group—a resume of the accomplishments of this group for the year 1915.

1. Lowering bridge north of town.

2. Inducing county board of supervisors to take favorable action for a new concrete bridge at the creamery to be built in the spring.

3. Securing daily weather forecast reports and standard time from Madison Wisconsin Observatory.

4. New brick platform at depot.

5. Installation of hog water sprinkler to be used by stock shippers.

6. Encouraging third of July celebration, promoting and arrangement.

7. Increasing club membership from 25 to 185 within the year.

8. Requesting C. M. St. P. RR to build a new depot.

Many other improvements were made as the result of efforts expended by this group through the years of its function.

Through the years with changing times and personalities that organization's functions were taken over by the business men themselves.

The Rock Valley Commercial Club as it is now today has functioned for many years—however it became an incorporated body April 5th, 1940 with the following businessmen instrumental in its formation. William Bogart, president; G. G. Ver Meer, Walter Haynes, vice president; Paul Coltenbaugh, secretary; Elmer E. Miller, F. T. McGill, and A. G. Vander Meer, treasurer.

During the past 15 years the club has carried on in its attempts to promote the welfare of Rock Valley and its inhabitants.

In the publication of the Rock Valley Town and Country club we find the following paragraph which we of the Rock Valley Commercial Club feel is still a timely statement despite changing economics and two world wars.

While a large percentage of the smaller towns of Iowa are standing still or declining, Rock Valley, located on the Milwaukee between Canton and Sheldon, has continued to grow. This is due to a number of important facts, among which we are willing to place at the head, the statement that the business men and the

farmers are of the right calibre. In Rock Valley you will find enterprising merchants in almost every line and surrounding Rock Valley—the agricultural Garden Spot of the world—are thrifty, scientific farmers. Another important reason why the population of the community has not become depleted is because of the fact that so many who move away, afterwards move back again—claiming there is no state just like Iowa, no county the equal of Sioux, nor any town so satisfactory as Rock Valley. A standing credit is due to the late Col. A. J. Warren, who displayed such excellent judgment in laying out the town by providing extra wide streets and an abundance of shade.

THE ROCK VALLEY FEDERATED WOMAN'S CLUB

Organized in March, 1908

Federated in June, 1909

Charter Members

Mrs. Mary S. Bunting

Mrs. Anna N. Dixon

Mrs. Edith H. Huizenga

Mrs. Elizabeth Huizenga

Mrs. Rosena Jacobs

Mrs. May M. Large

Mrs. Grace M. MacKellar

Mrs. Dorothy M. Mitchell

Mrs. Julia A. Norris

Mrs. Kathryn B. Renshaw

Mrs. Clara P. Schirmer

Mrs. Jennie H. Youl,

First President

In March 1908 twelve women of Rock Valley met and organized a club for the sole purpose of advancing the social and intellectual status of womanhood. The club was named the Progressive Literary Circle with a limited membership of fifteen and with rigid rules on attendance, membership and rules of order. The Club color was pink and the club flower to be pink carnation. Meetings were held on alternate Fridays from three to

five, with the club year beginning the first Friday in October.

In 1909 the Progressive Literary Circle was accepted as a member of the Federated Club of the state organization. This places the Woman's Club of Rock Valley, by seven years, the oldest Federated Woman's Club in Sioux County and one of the older Clubs in the state and nation of Federated Clubs. The early records show the members were annual givers to the Scholarship and Loan Fund of the state organization, Florence Crittendon Home in Sioux City and Iowa Children's Home. These projects are still a part of the present program with additional emphasis on purchasing "Towels" hemmed by the Blind, Penny Art Fund, Pan American Exchange Student Scholarship Fund and others. One of the Club's earliest civic projects on the local level was sponsoring of a Public Library. Club members were the librarians and the library had its beginning and place in one of the small rooms on the second floor of the Rock Valley Public School, old addition. Perhaps one of the most outstanding projects in recent years is the Annual Fall Flower Show, which is now in its eighteenth year. No club of its size has a record comparable to the magnitude and beauty of encouraging the developments of God's most precious gift to us, "the flowers." The esthetic value of this particular project has developed a keen sense of civic pride in our community.

The children of Rock Valley have not been forgotten by the women of the Woman's Club. In the early days of the club and before school lunches in the schools, the Woman's Club sponsored milk for all the children

during the winter months. When the children of our school were expected to use the old Opera House, above the former Corner Drug Store Building and used the attic Sky Room in the Public School building as a music room, the Woman's Club in 1938 proceeded to campaign for a new school building. By means of persuasion, Pep Band parades and house to house "Get Out the Vote" by the members, the vote for a new school building and issue of \$25,000 school bond passed by a vote of 597 for, and 77 against the proposition. Another project of great cultural value to our children and that was initiated and has been sponsored by the Woman's Club for fourteen years, is the Art and Poetry Contest for the children of school age in the community. Two valuable pictures, one a water color harvest scene by an Iowa artist and a lithograph scene were awarded to the Rock Valley members from the State Penny Art committee in recognition for outstanding work in that particular field of endeavor.

With an average attendance of thirty to forty members and with many members who have come and gone in its forty-seven years of existence, the Rock Valley Federated Woman's Club sincerity of purpose remains constant and with continued high ideals.

JUST A MERE FEDERATED WOMAN'S CLUB

On the evening of September 16, 1941, fourteen young ladies of Rock Valley and vicinity met in the home of Mrs. Lester R. Hegg for the purpose of organizing a Junior Federated Woman's Club. The Constitution and By Laws were adopted and with the election of officers the Club was accepted into the state fed-

eration of Woman's Clubs of the junior division. For nine years the Club remained in the Junior Division of the state Federation with Mrs. Lester R. Hegg as its senior sponsor and advisor. Upon its recognition as a regular club of the senior division in 1950 the name "Just A Mere" was adopted and accepted. The monthly meetings are held from September through May. The programs are educational and social with awareness toward community betterment. The Club since its beginning has given full membership support to all the State Federated Projects such as: Penny Art Fund, Scholarship and Loan Fund for needy girls in the state, Pan American Exchange Loan Fund, and far over their quota for the purchase of towels hemmed by the blind people in the state. Locally, the Club has been influential through their Community Betterment Project Contest of 1949 to organize and sponsor the Cub Scouts, petitioned the modernization of the C. M. & St. P. Depot, and the scheduling of a trucker to establish a weekly garbage route for the city.

Only one charter member remains on the present membership of twenty-one, namely Mrs. Alvin Miller, who has served as its president, secretary and faithful member for fourteen consecutive years.

Mrs. Gene Bunch, President

ROCK VALLEY ROTARY CLUB

The Rock Valley Rotary Club was organized May 22, 1939. The Hawarden Rotary Club sponsored the Rock Valley Club. On the night of organization, 158 tickets were sold to a dinner held in the basement of St. Mary's church. Representatives from Rotary Clubs at Waterloo, Yankton, Luverne, Sioux Falls, Can-

ton, Sioux City, Hawarden, Cherokee and Marcus were present.

Nineteen men from Rock Valley are listed as Charter members. Charter members were as follows:

E. R. Scanlan
J. P. Schutt
W. Hynes
J. A. Vander Ploeg
Hessel Roorda
C. H. Schemmer
Dr. A. L. Lock
Dr. B. Meerdink
Dr. L. R. Hegg
F. T. McGill
Dr. C. J. Schroeder
Gerrit Harmelink
W. S. Bogart
A. G. Vander Meer
W. A. Schaar
Ed De Smet
A. L. Halstead
Ed Knorr
Rev. A. J. Foerster

Officers elected at that time were:

J. P. Schutt, President
F. T. McGill, Vice President
E. R. Scanlan, Secretary
W. S. Bogart, Sgt. at Arms

Along with the above named officers, the board of directors consisted of J. P. Schutt, W. S. Bogart, F. T. McGill and W. Hynes.

Today the Rock Valley Rotary Club consists of fifteen members with the following active charter members: E. R. Scanlan, J. P. Schutt, Dr. B. Meerdink, Dr. L. R. Hegg, F. T. McGill, Dr. C. J. Schroeder and W. A. Schaar. Other members of the club are: E. E. Miller, E. R. Haas, A. W. Bergsma, O. Manning, P. Dean, J. Vande Kerk, Ted Baumann and J. Kragt. During the years, many others have belonged to the club. Some of these men have passed away and others have moved. Present officers consist of John Vande Kerk as president

and Paul Dean as secretary, along with a board of directors. Meetings are held on Monday noon in the V. F. W. hall.

The club has actively supported many projects which were beneficial to the town of Rock Valley. Along with this, for many years the club sponsored a Boy Scout Troop.

Arthur Bergsma

FARMERS COOPERATIVE COMPANIES

The farmers of the Rock Valley vicinity have organized, and for a number of years successfully operated, the Farmers Lumber Co., Farmers Elevator Co., Rock Valley Creamery Co., and the Community Oil Co. All of these organizations have many stockholders among the farmers and businessmen of the community and have made an enviable record in conducting their respective businesses on a cooperative basis.

Mr. Alvin Miller is the present manager of the Farmers Lumber Co.; Mr. Owen Manning, manager of the Farmers Elevator Co.; Mr. Al Van Beek, manager of the Rock Valley Creamery Co., and E. E. Miller, manager of the Community Oil Co. All of these men and their predecessors in office have contributed much to the success of the cooperative companies in Rock Valley.

SCHOOL BOARD

Honorable mention is also due to each and every citizen of the town who has served as a member of the school board during the years.

They have given many hours of their time and effort without compensation of any kind. John Haupt served for 25 years on the school board and for many years acted as president of same and during all of that time served

his community faithfully and well.

Dr. F. L. Dixon, A. L. Halstead and C. Rozeboom, the present secretary, were among the number who have served efficiently as secretary of the school board.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Rock Valley has had a very capable volunteer fire department since its organization in 1889.

The men who have acted as fire chief as disclosed by the available records were Thomas Hellstern, Ben Schemmer, John Wynia, John Kersbergen and the present fire chief, John C. Dykstra.

To all who served as members of the fire department, the citizens of the town wish to pay tribute and extend heartfelt thanks for their unselfish services.

MAYORS OF ROCK VALLEY

Names of men who served as Mayor of Rock Valley:

C. W. Carter, first Mayor,

January 16, 1889

W. C. Leonard

T. H. Maguire

James Parden

William Mulhall

Henry Schemmer

J. C. Vitzthum

Olin G. Reiniger

James Walpole

Dr. E. O. Plumbe

Dr. A. L. Hotelling

E. C. Suter

W. I. Murphy

F. T. McGill

Bert M. Leck

John Nebben

Frank Druyvesteyn

Thomas N. McGill

Quite a number of men have served as Town Clerk, among them being H. B. Beyer, the first Clerk, and J. C. Wiggerman, A. L. Halstead and H. A. Barnard,

the present Clerk who has held the office continuously since 1941.

Dick Van Eldik has served for more than 25 years as town marshal, street and water commissioner.

Many have served as councilmen since the time of the incorporation of Rock Valley, but a complete list is not available.

Names of Rock Valley boys who gave their lives for their country:

World War I

Dick Van Holland
Jake Koning

Henry F. Splear
Gerrit Kersbergen
Arthur Mulder
James McKeegan
William Fox
Will Pfarrer

World War II

James Achterhof
Del M. Thayer
Donald E. Johnson
Robert W. Rielly
Gerrit H. Vugteveen
Peter De Boer
Lawrence Kooima
Ralph Campbell
Hubert Baartman



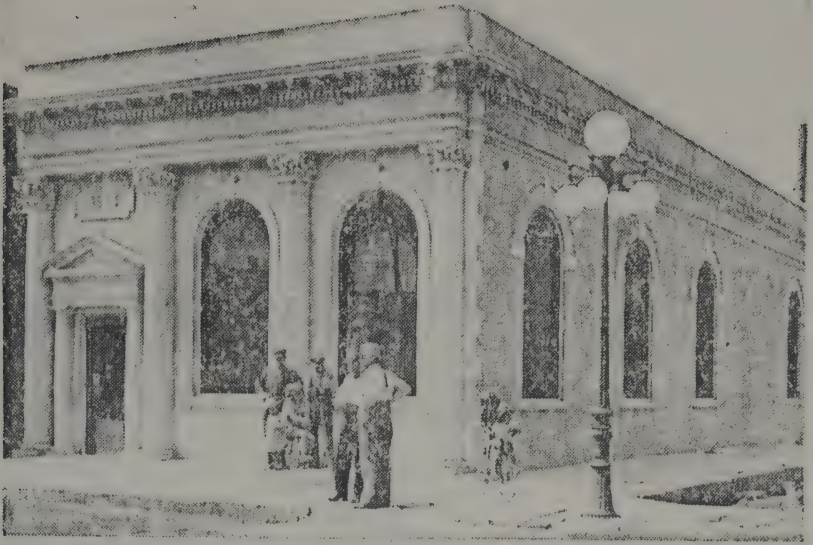
Mrs. Dr. E. O. Plumbe
First Teacher



Snow Drift 1936 on
William Gayer Farm



Rock Valley Mill



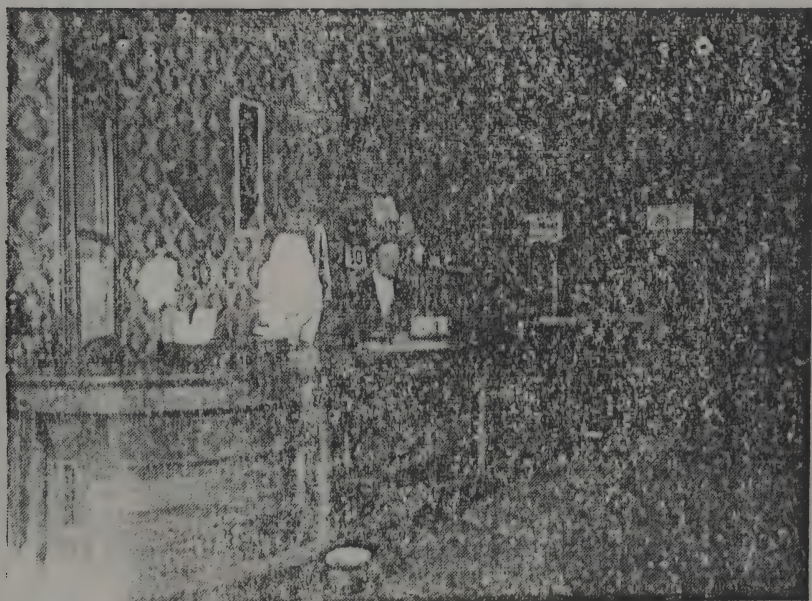
Valley State Bank



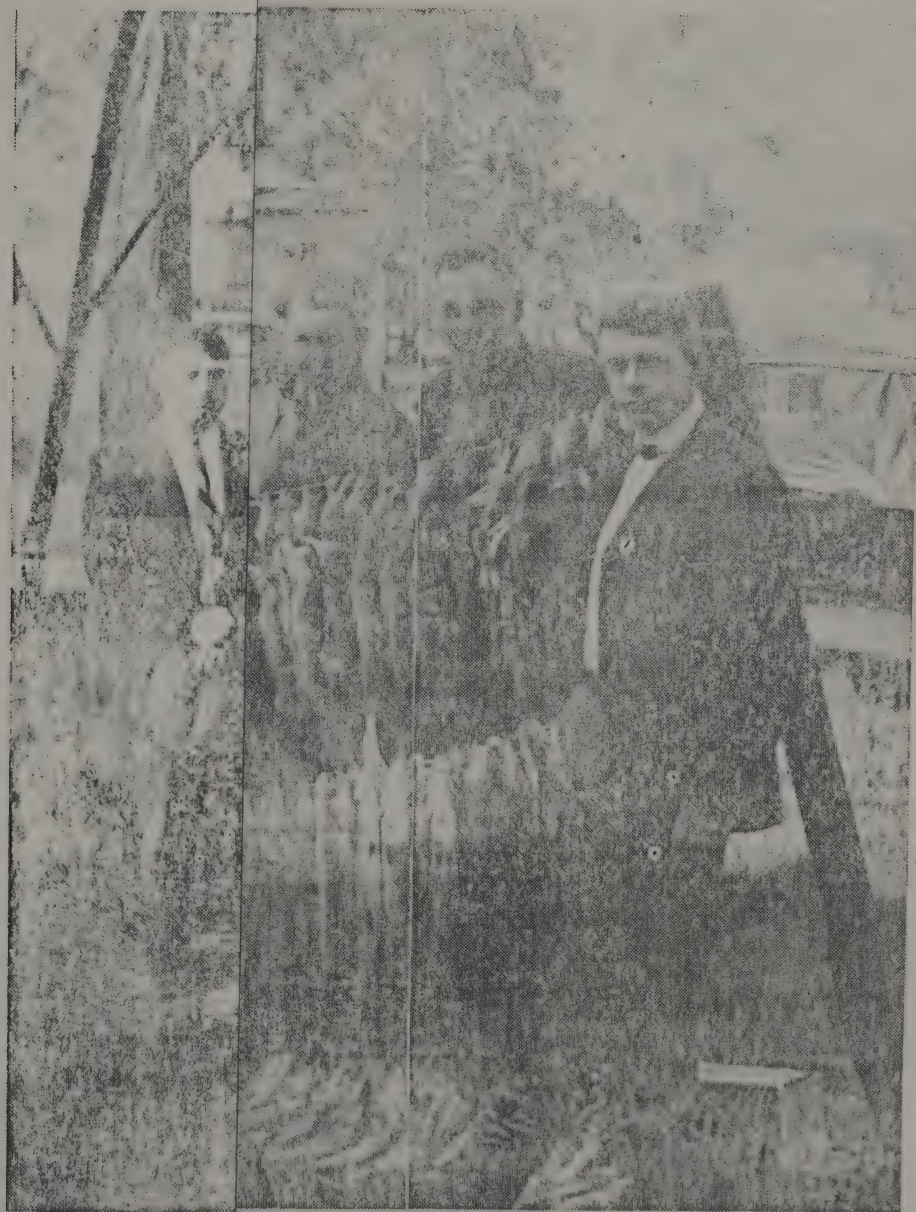
Rock Valley Depot—1893



Rock Valley Hospital

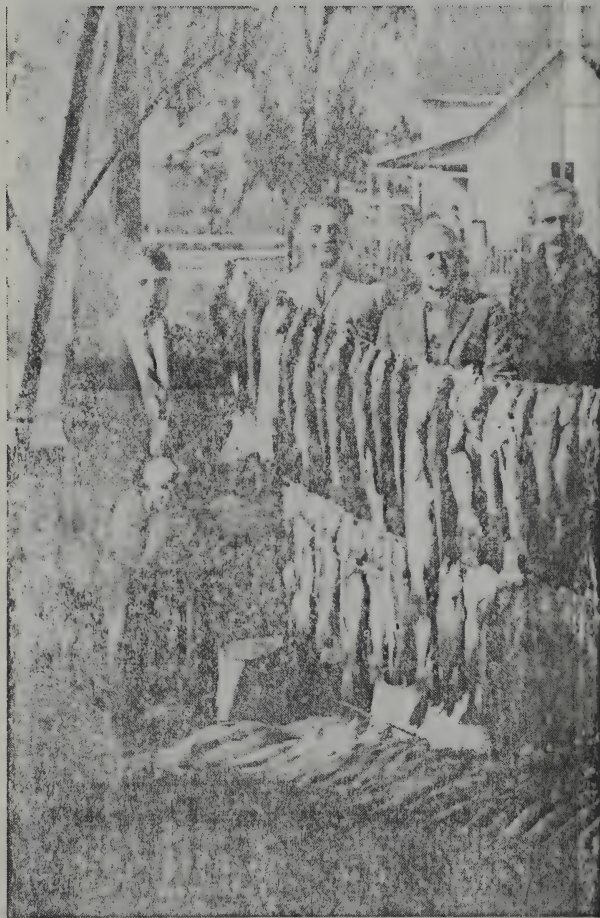


Fred Relander in Warren Hotel Lobby



ROCK VAL Mc-
W. B. Rich Cog-

swell, August Klein, Dr. A. L.
Lock.



ROCK VALLEY FISHERMEN
W. B. Richter, W. B. Hansen,



J. C. Wig, John Mc-
Keegan, Dr. Merit Cog-

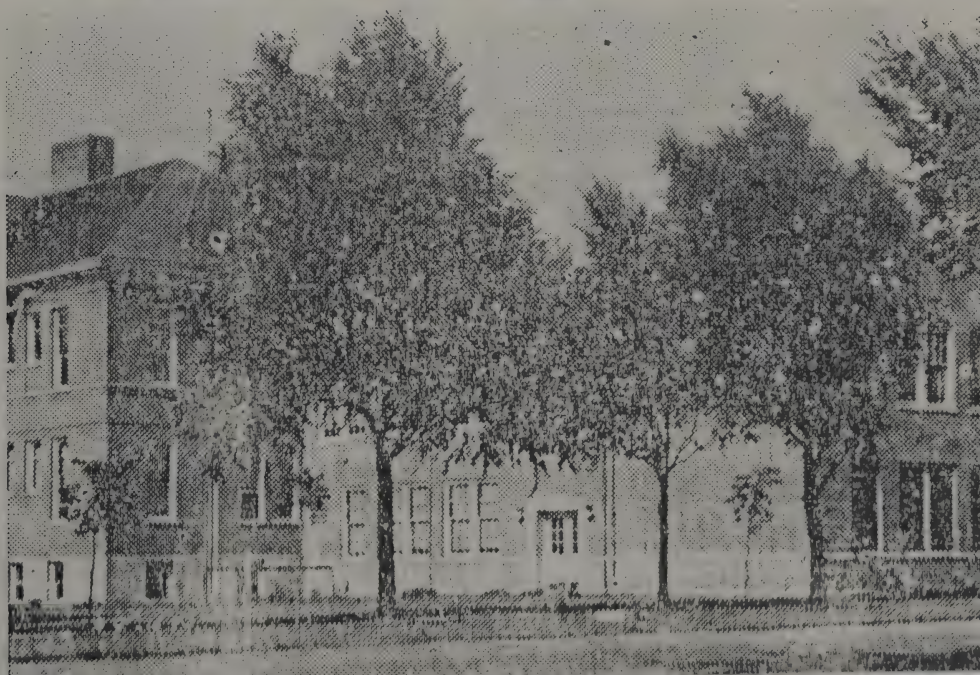
swell, August Klein, Dr. A. L.
Lock.



Old School House



1909

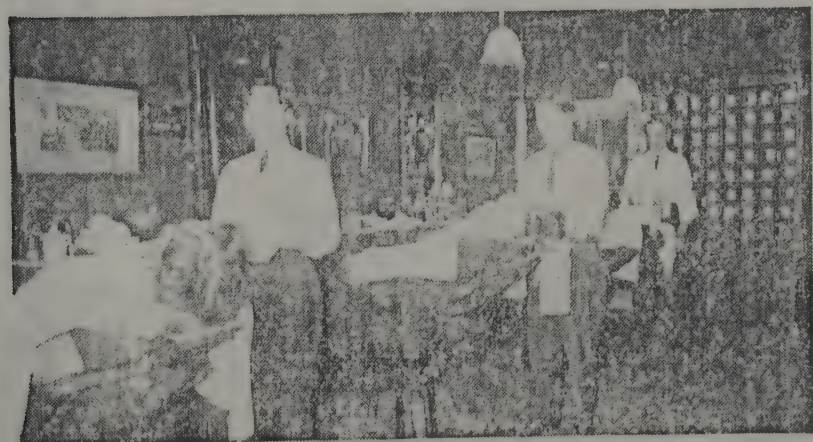




A. F. Schemmer Hardware Store



W. B. Richter Harness Shop



Rock Valley Barber Shop



D. J. Scanlan—
One Of Oldest Active
Rock Valley Businessmen





Dr. C. J. Schreger
Dentist



John C. Dykstra
Fire Chief

Picture

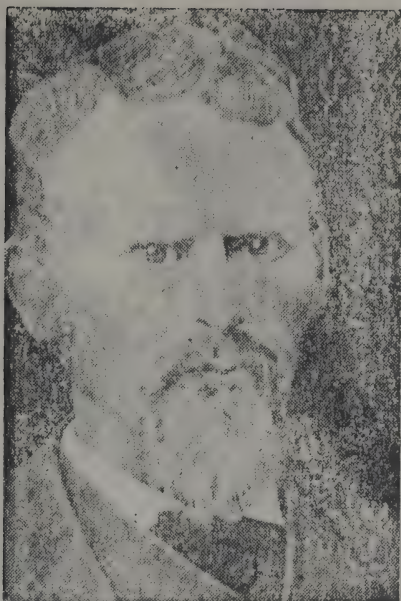
Noi

Available



John Harmelink
Chairman, Diamond Jubilee

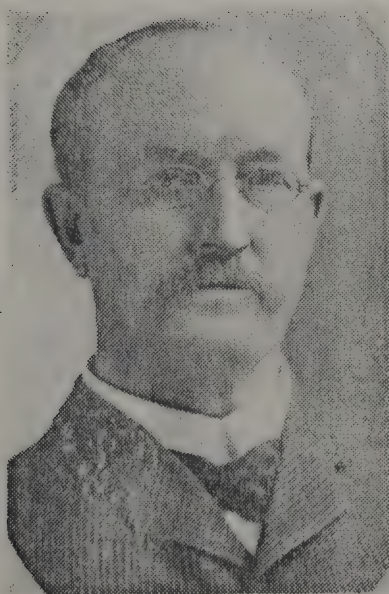
Dick Van Eldik
Town Marshall



Abraham J. Warren
Founder Of Rock Valley



Mrs. Abraham J. Warren



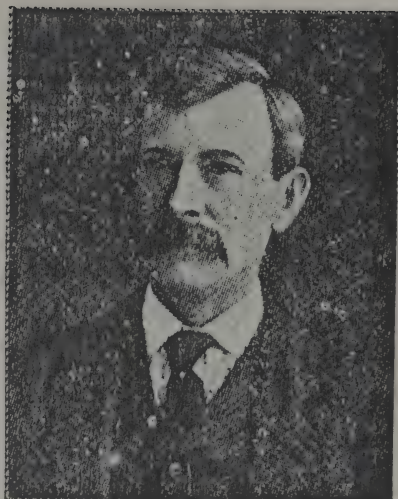
C. W. Carter
First Mayor



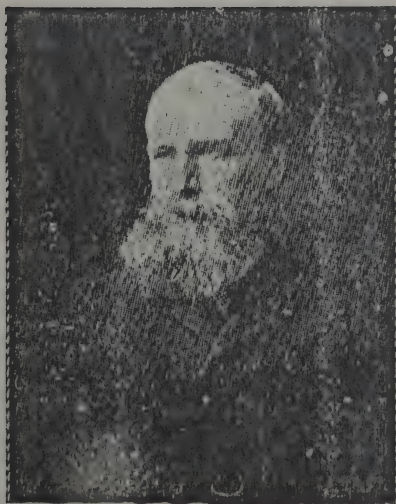
Henry Schemmer
Mayor



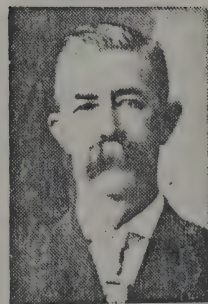
Olin C. Reiniger
Mayor



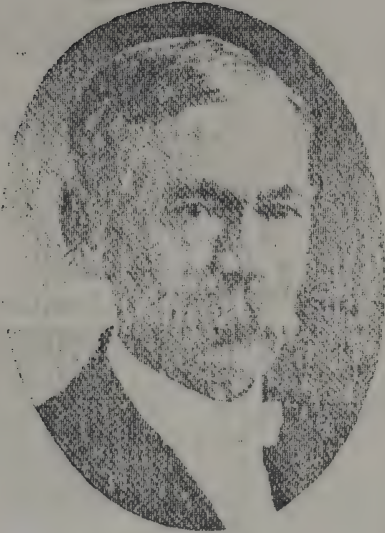
James Walpole
Mayor



Dr. E. O. Plumbe
First Doctor & Mayor



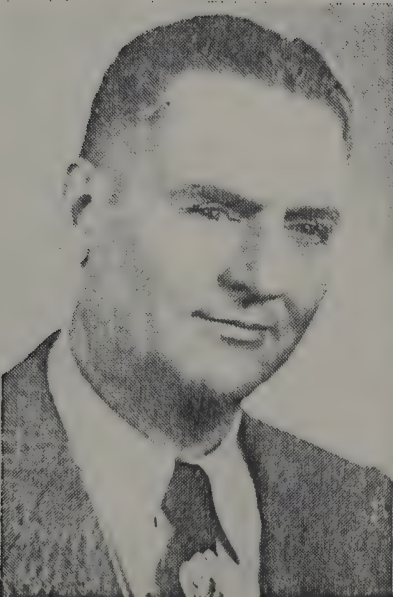
E. G. Suter
Mayor



W. I. Murphy
Mayor



F. T. McGill
Mayor



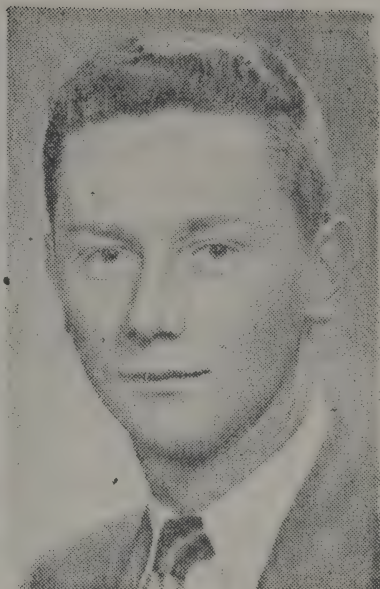
Bert M. Leck
Mayor



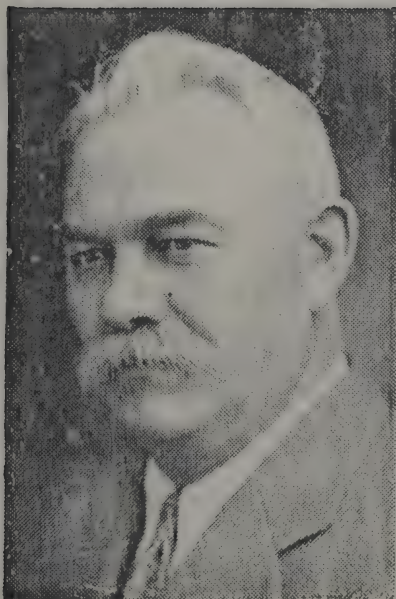
John Nebbin
Mayor



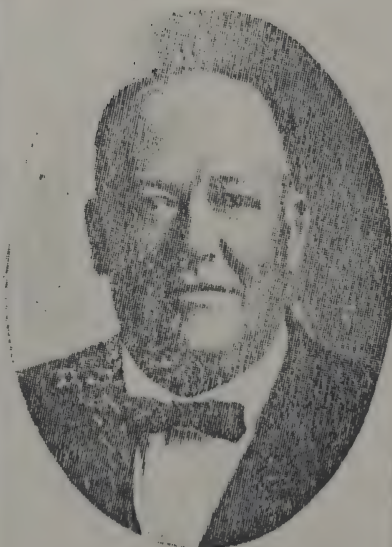
Frank Druystyn
Mayor



Thomas N. McGill
Mayor



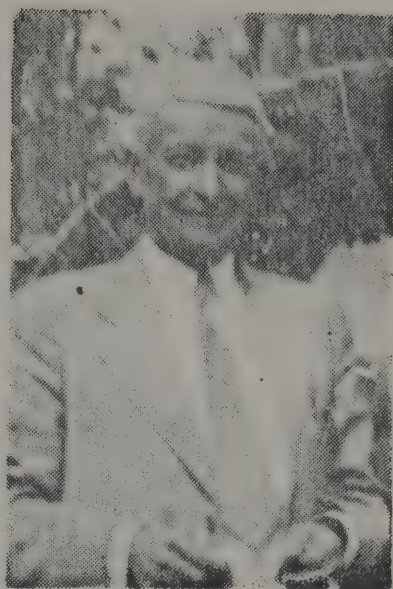
C. A. Walhof
Attorney



Dr. F. J. Huizenga
Physician & Surgeon



Dr. Richard Huizenga
Physician & Surgeon



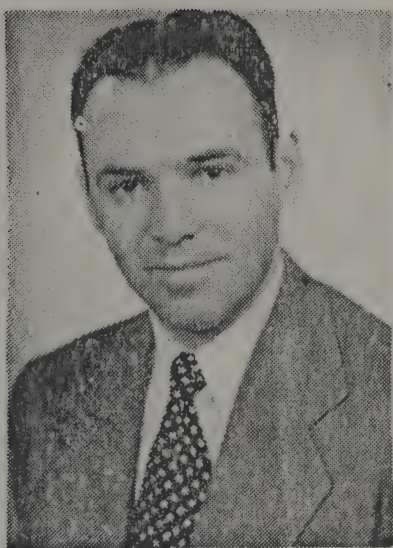
Dr. F. L. Dixon
Dentist



Dr. A. L. Lock
Physician & Surgeon



Dr. L. R. Hegg
Man of Year in 1954



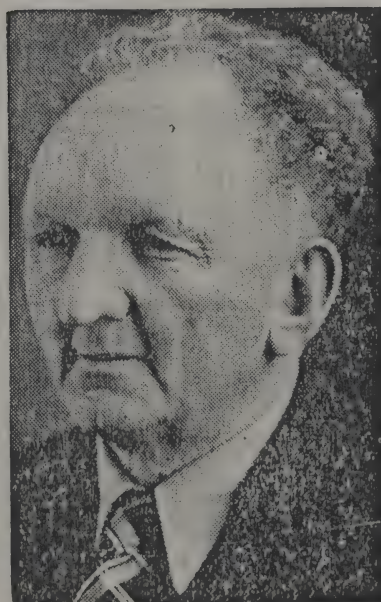
Donald F. Klein
Attorney



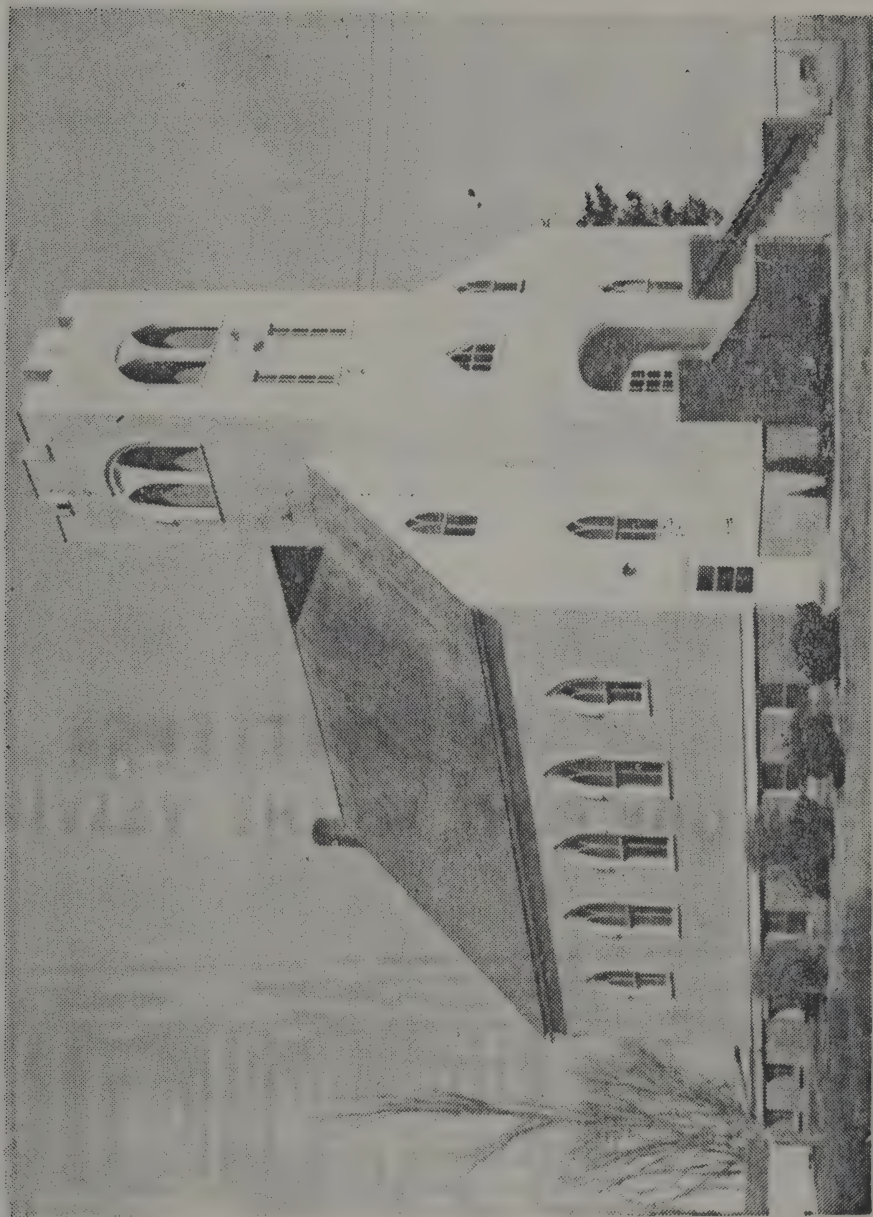
J. P. Schutt
President, Valley State Bank



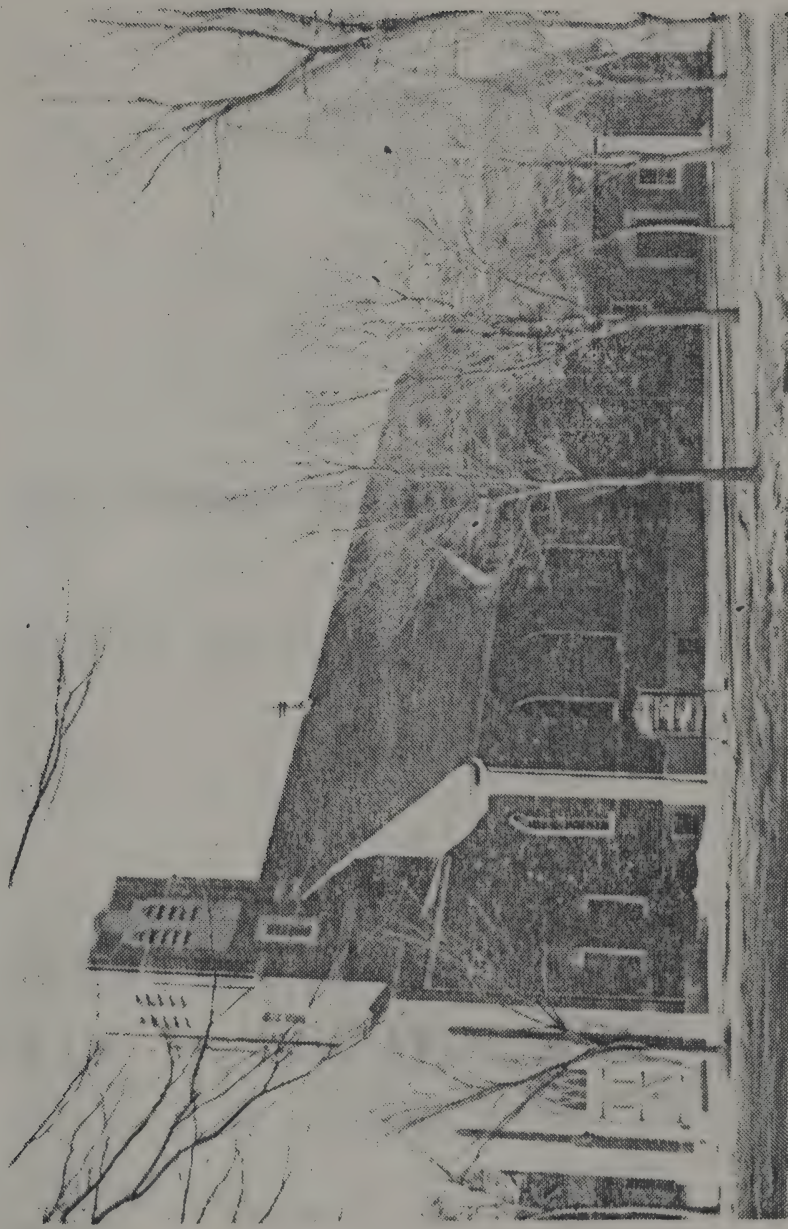
Hans Moeller
Founder of Cooperatives



John Haupt
Longtime School Board President



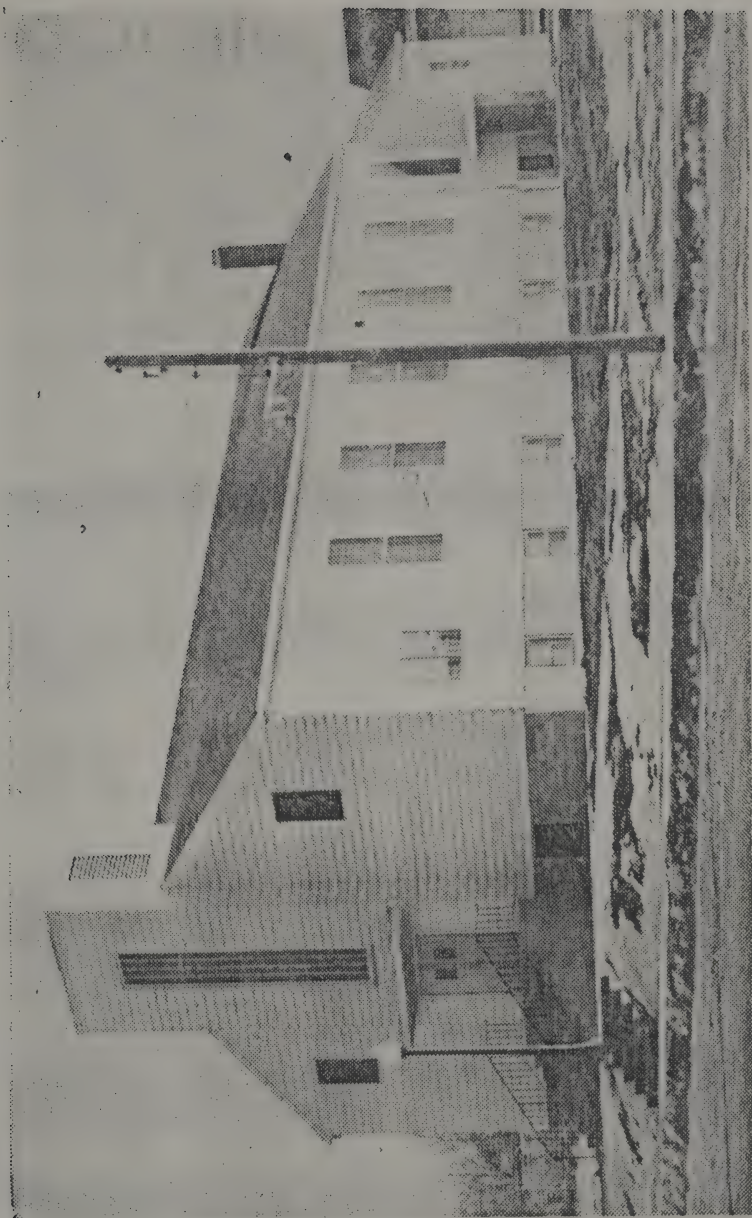
Peace Lutheran
Rev. H. Prieb



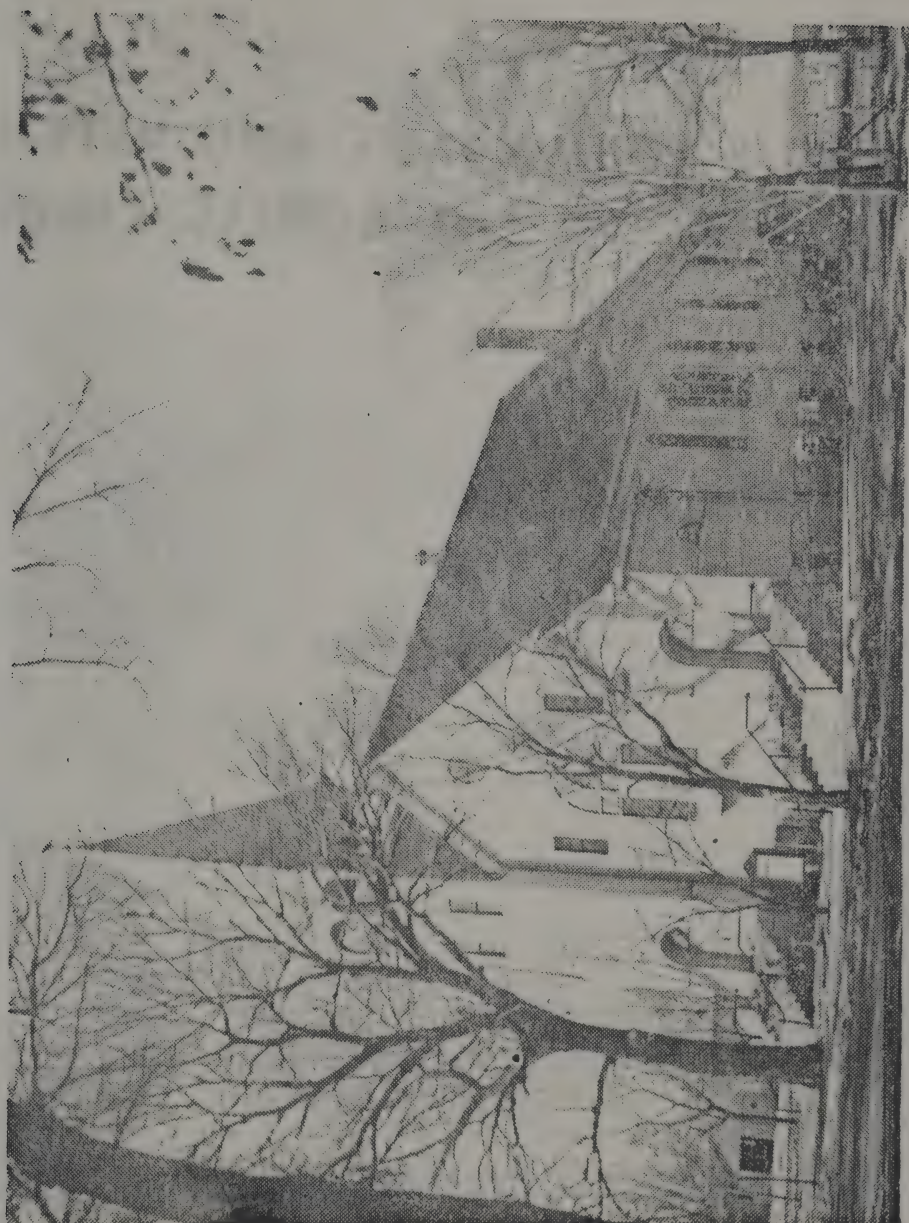
First Reformed
Rev. A. A. Dykstra



St. Mary's Catholic
Father David McGoey



Calvin Christian Reformed
Rev. J. C. Ribbens



First Christian Reformed
Rev. Christian Huissen



Pioneer Methodist
Rev. Nelson A. Price, D. D.



Our Savior's Lutheran
Rev. H. Priebe



.Protestant Reformed

Rev. S. Cammenga



Netherlands Reformed (Old)

Rev. John Van Zweden



